No 25 - APRIL 1991

UNESCO SOURCES

Readers, we have reserved this page for your comments, suggestions and criticisms. Consider it yours !

DIDN'T GET MY MONEY'S WORTH

Anne Ratski KRAATZ
Historian
Paris, France

I looked forward eagerly to your dossier on International Literacy Year (UNESCO SOURCES No. 23, February 1991). Literacy is certainly one of the most important aspects of UNESCO's work.

Unfortunately I somehow feel I didn't get my money's worth, above all when it came to the explanation of failures. Indeed, a frank examination of these failures would probably have been as constructive for the future as the simple enumeration of a few successes.

No one can hold UNESCO responsible for the rise in illiteracy. On the other hand, the Organization should at once be more critical of its programmes and more imaginative in searching for innovative solutions.

Quite frankly, we were not under the impression that this dossier was overly complacent, playing down failures and highlighting successes. The opening article presented the limits of the Year's impact, and another by Anil Bordia was very critical. The dossier also underlined the fact that the aim of ILY was not to launch a worldwide literacy campaign, but rather to generate awareness and reflection on this global problem. From this angle, ILY's impact was far from negligible. - ED.

VERY GOOD LEGIBILITY

Secours Catholique
Relations with NGOs
Paris, France

Your issue No. 23/ February 1991 was excellent. Very good legibility. Please send me five copies so that I can spread the word.

NO COLUMNS

Reuben M. MOLEFE
Journalist
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

I wish to express my opinion that, by and large, your new layout is good.

However, I wish to insist that page 2 is rather clumsy because of the empty spaces. In your February issue, for instance, there was only one letter in the right-hand column. I would suggest you stick to the old method and not that of columns.

We hate to disappoint you, but since the new layout concerns the magazine in its entirety, it is just not possible, for a few pages, to revert back to the old method. - ED.

YOU FINALLY GOT IT RIGHT!

J.C. WILLIAMS-McLETCHIE
Charlieville, Chaguanas
Trinidad, West Indies

Congratulations on your bold and attractive new design.

As soon as I received your No. 23 - February '91, my reaction was, *"Ah, they've finally got it right"*. I am a journalist operating my own Publications business, and myself discovered that Design was the most important factor in the finished product - no matter how interesting or earth-shattering the stories within. Keep up the good work!

Thanks for the compliment. Nonetheless, let us hope that the "bold and attractive" presentation will also serve to encourage even more recipients of UNESCO SOURCES to READ the magazine more effectively. - ED.

WESTERN- ORIENTED

Dr. W.M.K. WIJETUNGA
Secretary-General
Asian-South Pacific Bureau of Adult Education
Colombo, Sri Lanka

Your recent issue *"Cover to Cover"* provides a panoramic view of the range of publications coming out of UNESCO, and the often unseen but dedicated and creative people behind them. The information, however, is very revealing of what they represent and how it is reflected in the publications.

I am most particularly interested in the staff of the *Courier*, which as you mention, is made up of three Frenchmen, two British, one American, an Egyptian, a Russian and three Latin Americans, or in other words, a total of 10 European/Americans, and one Egyptian. But not a single person from Asia and the Pacific, or from Africa. No wonder that the *Courier* is so heavily western-oriented, whether in its representation of cultures and religions or of attitudes.

The editorial staff of the UNESCO COURIER at Headquarters is responsible for producing the English, French and Spanish language editions. This tends to justify the nationalities of the editors appointed by the Director General of UNESCO.
But what is important is perhaps less the nationality of the editors as their approach to the subjects treated. The editorial team is constantly in search of authors - from all continents - who can bring a multi-cultural perspective to the themes being treated. Due to distance and communication problems this is a difficult task and we welcome any help we can get from around the world. (The Editors of the Courier).

A QUESTION OF INFLUENCE

Let's put things into proper perspective: public authorities spend a world total of one thousand billion dollars each year on education. In terms of education aid to developing countries, the nations of the OECD last year contributed more than three billion dollars, the World Bank one billion. Against these giants, UNESCO's $40 million education budget - even if we top this up with the $35 million made available in extra-budgetary funds, i.e. the funds allocated to the Organization by States or outside sources for specific projects - seems paltry. What then, is UNESCO's role in this field, which falls directly within the Organization's mandate?

Certainly, it is not a banker, nor a technical assistant, neither by mandate or vocation.

Regardless, the welcome progress that has taken place in education in the Third World and the increase in the power of relevant aid organizations with far greater resources than UNESCO, obliges the Organization to recentre, or at least, to finetune its action, to avoid being pushed onto the sidelines. And, after all, the thirst to learn is far from being quenched: the planet counts almost one billion illiterates, education systems are in crisis in the North as well as the South.

However, the line of action taken by UNESCO is dictated by the Organization's nature and its means. To nurture the ambition of physically reaching the billion students and 50 million teachers around the globe is pure fantasy. It is therefore through all those who are in direct contact with the world of education that UNESCO must act. How? By affirming itself as a centre of excellence, making the latest knowledge available to specialists, without whom nothing constructive can be done; by influencing political will, without which nothing can be decided, and by convincing the international and national financiers, without which nothing can be funded.

Utopic? For decades now, UNESCO has proclaimed that more than money and experts are needed to "develop" a country, starting with learning adapted and accessible to all. Today, finally, nobody puts this in doubt.

René LEFORT

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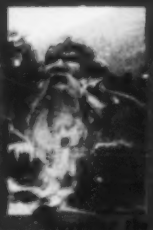
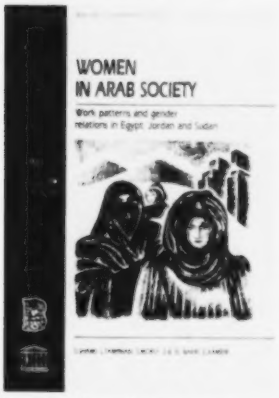


READEX FICHE

BOOKS

WOMEN IN ARAB SOCIETY

Work patterns qnd gender relations in Egypt, Jordan qnd Sudan. Prepared by eminent women scholars of the Arab region, the studies in this book examine the impact of the oil economy and radical social and economic changes on patterns of women's work and on value systems concerning their place in society.



Empirical analysis is combined with case studies illustrating women's position both in rural and urban contexts, to demonstrate the complex dynamics of gender relations. It is shown that "traditional" patterns of relationships have in fact been reinforced by "modern" forces of labour migration and market-oriented production, while women's entry into the labour market has not automatically led to empowerment and emancipation.. The picture that emerges, however, is not one of powerless beings, but of resouceful women engaged in daily and longer-term strategies for their family kin and community, a view which refuses to consider women's work simply in terms of economic contribution.

● **Women in Arab Society**: *work patterns and gender relations in Egypt, Jordan and Sudan, by Setaney Shami, Lucine Taminian, Soheir A. Morsy, Zeinab Bashir El Bakri and El Wathig Kameir; Berg/ UNESCO, 1990, 217 pp., 225 FF.*

SCIENTIFIC DIVING: a general code of practice

This comprehensive set of guiding principles for the conduct and administration of safe and efficient scientific diving is the result of collaboration between the World Underwater Federation (Confédération Mondiale des Activités Subaquatiques - CMAS) and UNESCO's Division of Marine Sciences. While national codes for scientific diving exist in several countries since 1970, they differ in their context and environment, and thus tend to emphasize or omit various factors. This Code of Practice, on the other hand, reponds to the needs of marine scientists to collaborate frequently with colleagues from many countries, by combining expertise from all over the world.

● **Scientific Diving: a general code of practice,** *edited by N.C. Flemming and M.D. Max on behalf of the World Underwater Federation (CMAS), Florida Sea Grant/UNESCO/CMAS, 1990, illus., 254 pp., 125 FF.*

INNOVATIONS FOR LARGE CLASSES

For teachers and administrators who, determined to eradicate illiteracy, provide basic education for all and expand secondary, vocational and higher education, must deal with schooling of vastly increased numbers. Using a systems approach, the author, Jean Valérien, gives examples of teaching under difficult conditions, then offers original suggestions for improving the situation.

● **Innovations For Large Classes** : *A guide for teachers and administrators, by Jean Valérien, Education Studies and Documents No. 56, UNESCO, 1990, 77 pages, 50 FF.*

PERIODICALS

COPYRIGHT BULLETIN

In the feature article, **Satellite Broadcasting and Copyright,** André Kerever, a member of the French Council of State, and former Chairman of the Intergovernmental Copyright Committee outlines the complex problems and provides some answers to the copyright questions raised by satellite communication. Another article provides details of an original New Delhi (India)-based publishing scheme for *"Developing Afro-Asian Authors"*. This issue (No.3/ 1990) also contains book reviews, news and information on recent accessions to international conventions, on UNESCO activities, notably for the teaching of copyright, and on international meetings. Among these latter, a Forum in Caracas (Venezuela) last year on Intellectual Property Policies, notably focused on piracy of protected works which the Bulletin's report describes as *"one of the most serious problems facing Latin America today"*.

THE UNESCO COURIER

Perceptions of Time. To dominate an anguish shared by all humankind, each culture has shaped its own conception of time. These conceptions have found expression in myths, epics and works of literature in which symbolic structures are used in an attempt to come to terms with the ephemeral and the eternal. As the French philosopher Paul Ricoeur suggests in the present issue, this symbolization constitutes "human time". It has produced a wide range of systems for organizing temporal experience.
This month's (April 1990) **Courier** gives an idea of this diversity by citing examples from very different societies, while, at the same time, addressing a kind of crisis linked to the fact that *"perceptions of time rooted in the religious beliefs of many cultures are retreating in the face of sophisticated quartz, electronic or atomic timekeeping devices."* This issue also includes an interview with leading contemporary painter, Farouk Hosny, who is today Egypt's Minister of Culture.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL SCIENCE JOURNAL

Intenational Conflict Research. Paradigms, geopolitics, rationality, enemy images, arms control, ethnic dimensions. The encouraging developments in East-West relations and in certain regions, are not transforming the world into a conflict-free place. Progress towards a more peaceful, free and just world requires a better understanding of the causes of conflicts, and the ways of terminating and preventing them. The articles in this timely issue (No. 127, February 1991) are written by some of the best scholars in the field of conflict research.

Publications and periodicals are on sale at the Unesco Bookshop, or by order from Unesco Press, 7 place de Fontenoy, 75700 Paris, and in Member States through national distributors.

INTO CALMER WATERS IOC CHAIRMAN STEPS DOWN

For outgoing Chairman, Ulf Lie, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) is like a family - *"Once you're in, you can never really leave"*. The 59 year old Norwegian has just completed two-four-year terms at the helm of the IOC, steering the Commission through a crucial point in its history towards what is known as *"functional autonomy"*. Much concern has been voiced that the Commission's real aim is a complete break with UNESCO, however Lie strongly denies this. *"What we are talking about is increasing the efficiency and flexibility of the IOC by granting it the authority to act more quickly on certain issues. We also need to be able to broaden our support base. UNESCO is in a difficult financial position and its support for the IOC is, by necessity, limited. Staff shortages are acute - we are wearing out the Secretariat.*

Functional autonomy does not represent a break with UNESCO, rather it would see the IOC develop into a very strong marine science arm of the Organization."

Lie will continue his work on this issue, as chairman of a special group within the IOC that has been charged with a thorough examination of the Commission's statutes. He is also deeply committed to narrowing the gap in marine sciences between the industrialized and developing worlds. *"This has been a source of frustration for me over the years. Despite the considerable efforts we have poured into the training of marine scientists in recent years, the gap between developed and developing countries has actually increased. This is basically linked to the fact that marine science itself is growing at a much faster rate than training capacities. We must do more."*

On top of his activities with the IOC, Lie also wears the hat of Director of the Centre for Studies on the Environment and Resources at Bergen University in his home country. He lives and breathes his science. But in those rare moments of relaxation he heads not for the ocean, as one might expect, but for the *"Rhymesmith's Guild"*, a private club of *"elderly gentlemen"* who get together regularly to sing folksongs. In this domain however, the marine scientist admits to being a *"novice"*. *"It's a very old club, and rather difficult to get in,"* he admits with a hint of pride, and then, with a little anticipation, *"my evaluation is coming up this year, and only then will I know if I am up to the mark!"*

Sue Williams

INCOMING AND OUTGOING I.O.C. CHAIRMEN, MANUEL M. MURILLO (LEFT) AND ULF LIE (RIGHT) (Photo Unesco/Michel Claude).

THE NEW MAN AT THE HELM DR. MANUEL M. MURILLO

"I guess I have accumulated a certain amount of experience over the years..." acknowledges, somewhat modestly, Manuel M. Murillo (Costa Rica) when asked why he thought he had been elected to the IOC's top job. The 53 year old scientist has been a continuous member of the *"fraternity that is the IOC"* since 1975, and for the last four years has been groomed for the position in his role as First Vice Chairman to Ulf Lie. His election to the post of Chairman was uncontested.

A marine biologist by profession, Murillo belongs to *"a generation of Costa Ricans, who were pushed to study abroad in the 60s in an effort to eventually develop the country's education"*. After achieving his PHd. at the University of Southern California (USA), he returned home to help revamp the system of research at the University of Costa Rica. This also entailed the setting up the national Marine Science Centre, of which today he is the Director.

He sees his task as IOC Chairman as *"a big challenge"*. Apart from the changes taking place within the Commission as it moves towards a situation of greater autonomy, there is a new urgency in oceanography as scientists try to piece together the puzzle of climate change and its impact. *"We know almost nothing about this area,"* says Murillo. *"To properly tackle the problem requires an integrated approach that goes beyond the capacity of any one nation. It is inevitable that the IOC will have a vital role to play in this regard."*

Another area of particular concern to the Costa Rican is the alarming pollution of the oceans. *"The situation is critical everywhere. We lack a lot of knowledge about the planet's capacity to balance out the impact of human development, and therefore the means to come up with adequate measures to solve the problem. At the same time we are seeing too many examples of rapid deterioration of the environment."*

For a man who gets *"excited about nature"*, who is an avid scuba diver and underwater photographer, and finds cities *"too stressful"*, such degradation reveals *"a tremendous insensitivity to the environment."* As the new Chairman of the IOC he would like to steer the Commission into a position where it can fully support the scientific community's efforts to check the damage being done and resolve the problems for which he believes society will otherwise pay very dearly.

S.W.

● **"It is indispensable to educate for peace,"** declared Rodrigo Borja, President of Ecuador, during the first official visit to UNESCO by a head of state from the Latin American country on February 21. Education, he added, could thus contribute to a *"culture of peace"*, with violence giving way to solidarity and the quest for a better quality of life bringing together nations and peoples.

● **"Chernobyl: Never Again. Priority: Environment"** is the message behind a medal designed by Pierre Cardin to help raise funds for UNESCO's programme to help the victims of the nuclear accident. The medal, which goes on sale worldwide on April 26, depicts the Earth and symbolizes the priority given by UNESCO to the environment.

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CULTURE : THE NEGLECTED DIMENSION OF DEVELOPMENT

Famine in the Sahel, unrelenting debt in South America, spiralling social problems in the industrialized world : the path of development is strewn with the debris of its failures and irksome side-effects, to the point where the direction taken is being increasingly called into question. Are we not paying, today, for the dissociation of culture, in its broadest sense, and "development"?
The World Decade for Cultural Development (1988-1997) is an effort to rectify this situation. This month's FOCUS presents the Decade's broad outlines (see below), and their application through a project in Mongolia (p. 11) and another on urban planning (p. 14). The World Bank's reaction (p. 10) - symptomatic of donor agencies - and the upheavals occurring in Latin America (pp. 15-16) bear sufficient witness to the Decade's relevance in today's world.

Culture cannot be improvised," writes Julien Green. It is inseparable from the lives of individuals and peoples. It is the soul of a nation. But it is also as vulnerable as a fledgling bird, at the mercy of such voracious predators as alienation, fashions, the desire to dominate and economics. It takes an unflagging determination to protect culture from its many enemies and give it the place it merits.

At the beginning of the 80s, a few specialists, concerned about the fact that culture, particularly in the Third World where development is so complex, is never given sufficient priority, decided to launch a long-term campaign: a world decade of cultural development. Their natural partner - the United Nations. The main objectives were set at the Mondiacult World Conference on Cultural Policies, organized by UNESCO in Mexico in the summer of 1982. These stated that progress in the countries of the south as well as those of the north, be they *"progressive"*, or *"liberal"*, should be rooted in the peoples of those countries, hence in their culture.

"On our return from Mexico," remembers Assistant Secretary General at the Mexico conference and then chief of UNESCO's Cultural Policy Department, Albert Botbol, *"we began working on the legal aspects to concretise what was still only a resolution. The decade had to become an inter-departmental project within Unesco - the initiator - and an inter-agency campaign with the United Nations."*

The Decade was adopted by the U.N General Assembly in December 1986 and officially launched on January 21, 1988. An administrative framework was set up, objectives, as vast as ambitious, laid out (see box) and a strategy decided upon. The decade is now well underway. It ends in 1997.

CULTURE VS. ECONOMICS

"A lot of people had to be convinced," adds Albert Botbol. *"The international situation at the time stressed profitability, economy and special interests, to the detriment of the social and the collective. The almighty dollar could not be burdened with something as banal as culture. We found ourselves having to introduce the concept of culture into the U.N system at a time when, for example, the word "culture" did not even figure in the Treaty of Rome, which is the very basis of the European Community. And, if at the halfway point, the decade has not had the impact it should have had, it's partly for the same reason: the economic still takes precedence over the cultural. This needs to be overturned if we are to achieve harmonious development in both the north and south."*

Initially the decade focussed on grass roots mobilisation to ensure as large a participation as possible. Seventy national committees were formed and the Decade gave its financial backing, albeit often very limited, to more than 112 projects all over the world. However this no doubt indispensable initial phase is now over according to Dr. Adriaan Van Der Staays, Director of the Netherlands Social and Cultural Planning Office and Chairman of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Decade. *"We must concentrate our efforts and means, and resist the temptation to spread valuable resources too thinly, especially given UNESCO's limitations in this area. An ambitious programme is the only way to achieve this."*

A plan of action has now been defined to refocus the second stage of the decade, giving priority to the cultural dimension of development. Two pitfalls must be avoided: banalising the decade by embarking on projects UNESCO has already taken on, or adopting too many small projects through the application of very vague criteria. This would only blur the image of the Decade, its message and therefore its impact.

The first phase of this second stage follows meetings in Asia, the Caribbean and the Pacific, Latin America, Africa and Europe, at which governments decided to

launch major regional projects. Each of these projects would be backed by several governments within the regions and would receive from UNESCO a sum of up to $200,000. Dr. Van der Staays mentions, for example, projects on *"the baroque period"* or *"tourism and culture"*, which is of particular interest to the Asians, or the German project to revitalise a European university. Many ambitious projects linked to the Decade already exist: the Integral Study of the Silk Roads: Roads of Dialogue (see Sources no. 18) or the Alexandria Library (see Sources no.9). However, as Dr. Van Der Staays points out, *"the Alexandria library was a project that would have existed even without the Decade. For us, it's like not seeing the woods for the trees."*

INTER-REGIONAL AND INTER-AGENCY PROJECTS

Between projects whose size *"hides the woods"* and those which are too small to make sufficient impact on the Decade, there should also exist inter-regional projects. To these should be added inter agency co-operation based on an annual central theme. The aim here, according to Dr. Van der Staay *"is to bring together the resources of UNESCO and other UN agencies to further the cause of the Decade."* Thus, UNESCO and the World Health Organization, could agree on a common programme to reconcile culture and health, particularly in Africa, where modern medecine needs to take traditional medecine into account. Among other annual themes under consideration: culture and environment with the U.N Environment Programme (UNEP), culture and work with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and culture and agriculture with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

One theme of particular interest to the international community is culture and democracy, which has been chosen as the theme for 1991.

"Democracy is not merely a legal mechanism or a political system," says Dr. Van der Staays, *"it's the result of a system of values that includes the right to be different, tolerance and the rights of the individual. It's a central aspect of development, of cultural citizenship."* This year's activities will culminate in an international conference of democracy and development in Prague (Czechoslovakia).

Last but not least, the Decade must concern not just UNESCO, other U.N agencies and Member States, but also non-governmental organizations, creators, policy makers, bankers, planners, economists and the like. That is why, stresses Dr. Van der Staay, it is important to project a clear image; a simple message effectively communicated. The aim is to ensure that two aspects of the same idea are clearly understood everywhere by everybody: if culture, in its broadest, anthropological sense, is ignored, "misguided development", which is detrimental to economic growth and likely to aggravate social tensions is the almost certain result; development reduced to *"modernization"* also threatens one of humanity's most precious possessions, i.e. the wealth of cultural diversity.

FIVE LANGUAGES LOST ANNUALLY

"We've come to the point where five languages become extinct each year, where knowledge is lost, where crafts, such as bronze work in Asia, disappear. We must confront this situation and act," insists Dr. Van der Staays. *"However,"* he adds, *"the relationship between culture and development is so conceptually vague that even though everybody is talking about it, no universal definition has yet been formulated. If UNESCO does not come up with a clear vision of what it is all about, how can we expect policy makers, urban planners and economists to understand the important role of culture plays in development?"* It is therefore necessary, he believes, to do for culture what the Brundtland Report has done for the environment through a World Report on Culture and Development. *"If UNESCO does not achieve this, it will fail."*

"It's not just a question of adding yet another document to UNESCO's archives. The preparation of such a report must be handled scientifically, by experts from all walks of life. Its conclusions have to be rock solid, uncontestable. This is the condition, sin qua non, for it to become an instrument of mobilization."

This ambitious project has already been accepted in principle. It remains now, to fix the modalities and rally the necessary resources - a task that rests on the shoulders of the Organization's Executive Board and Director-General - and, above all to obtain the green light from the next General Conference...

Max CERRANS

FOUR MAIN OBJECTIVES

UNESCO has long championed the crucial role of culture in the development process, and as far back as 1978, brought this issue before the General Assembly of the United Nations. Subsequently in 1986, as recommended by the World Conference on Cultural Policies (MONDIACULT) organized by UNESCO in Mexico City in 1980, the General Assembly proclaimed the period 1988-1997 as the World Decade for Cultural Development. The resolution set out four main objectives: acknowledging the cultural dimension of development; affirming and enriching cultural identities; broadening participation in culture; and, promoting international cultural co-operation.

The Decade is an undertaking of the entire U.N system, with UNESCO in the role of lead agency. National Decade Committees have now been formed in over 70 countries, and an Intergovernmental Committee, consisting of representatives of 36 Member States, elected by the General Conference, oversees UNESCO's role. Since its launch in 1988, the Decade Secretariat, guided by an Intersectoral Committee, has awarded $1m in Participation Programme grants to 112 projects, and has given official backing to some 400 others. Major projects on the drawing board include a World report on Culture and Development, a World Day for Cultural development (May 21) and a comprehensive mid-Decade review in 1993-94.

A DIPLOMAT IN THE SERVICE OF CULTURE

"The very objective of development is cultural - it cannot be anything else."

Raymond Chasles is first and foremost a cultural militant; a tireless promoter of the cultural dimension of the cooperation agreement established in 1976 between the 12-member European Economic Community and the 69 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries.

According to this agreement (the Lomé Convention) the EEC accords non-reciprocal trade advantages and preferences to its Third World partners based on the principle of *"compensation for inequalities"*.

However, this is insufficient for Raymond Chasles, ambassador of Mauritius in Brussels and, as such a participant in the first negotiations with the EEC.

"Cooperation needed to be stepped up," he says, *"but without culture, there can be no development."* Culture, he adds must be understood in its widest sense. It goes beyond the arts. It is the myths we live on and the legends that sustain us, the ballads that we sing, the multi-layered idiom of our tradition, our concepts of heaven and hell. It is *"the interaction between people and their environment"*. In short, culture is the *"human dimension of development"*, and, consequently, its ultimate aim. It's a difficult notion to incorporate within a limited judicial framework, particularly as *"the EEC is not competent on cultural matters: culture is the concern of individual governments, or even regions, as, for example, is the case of the Länder in Germany"*.

A LONG TERM CONCERN

Culture and development has concerned Chasles for a long time. His father, he recalls, spent 40 rupees out of his meagre policeman's salary of 150 rupees, on language studies. The EEC ambassador, himself, could not go to university for financial reasons, and joined the teaching profession when he was barely out of school. Nonetheless, shortly after the signing of the first Lome Convention in 1976, he brought together intellectuals, academics and creative people to bring to light a simple but, at the time, revolutionary, notion, that *"there can be no development without culture"*. At the time, he notes, *"there was hesitation not just in the North, but in the South as well, where culture was being reduced to folklore. "Those representatives of Third World countries who had been educated in the West were incapable of seeing the relation between culture and development. They were there to defend the economic interests of their countries, not to awaken cultures they had relegated to the past, and whose financing they feared would have adverse effects on economic cooperation."* Raymond Chasles recalls the startling words of a colleague who once posed the question: *"We have neither cathedrals nor symphonies. What can we contribute to cultural cooperation?"*

From conference to conference, Chasles has tried to hammer home his message - *"the very objective of development is cultural"; that "emancipation from political, economic and social domination, (a fundamental aim of ACP countries) is a cultural process"; that "it is because of culture that the concept of human rights has become an integral part of any document". In short, "development cannot be anything else but cultural"*.

In 1980, he was charged by the ACP to deal with cultural and social cooperation. As a result of his efforts, the last Lomé Convention, the fourth, notes that *"cooperation contributes to the autonomous development of ACP countries, based on the dignity of human beings and rooted in the culture of each country. The human and cultural dimension should be a primordial component of any project or development programme."* For the signatories of the Convention, *"the cultural and social dimension, the promotion of cultural identities and intercultural dialogue"* must be at the heart of cooperation between the EEC and the ACP.

"IMMENSE" NEEDS

It is hardly a coincidence that these concerns mirror the objectives of the World Decade of Cultural Development; Raymond Chasles knows UNESCO well. He was assistant permanent delegate to the Organization for his country in the early 70s. Following the official opening of the decade in 1987, his foundation, set up in the same year and of which he is Secretary-General, was the first to celebrate the event.

The *"Foundation for ACP-EEC cultural cooperation"* is recognized by the Lomé Convention's signatories as *"contributing to the implementation of cultural cooperation"*. It's budget (2.5m Ecus, about $3m) is derisory, says Chasles, given the *"immense"* needs. Nonetheless, the foundation is an instrument through which Raymond Chasles can promote his idea of culture as the motor of development and encourage projects that contribute to that interaction.

Among the latest projects the Foundation has given its support to is an exhibition which opened in Brussels this month, "Le Noir du Blanc", presenting the images of Blacks as seen and represented by Whites in a range of items from children's literature to publicity posters, from the earliest days of the African Diaspora to present times.

In the 80s, Raymond Chasles, who has also authored several few books of poetry, created a magazine, known as *"The Star and the Key"* to publicize the works of Francophone poets. The title was inspired by the motto of Chasles' home country, but more than this, it underlines the philosophy that makes this poet-diplomat tick: the key which opens the door to a full life is culture.

Max CERRANS

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BANKING ON CULTURE

The Director of the World Bank's Africa Department discusses the issue.

Culture, broadly speaking, includes not only arts and letters, but also ways of life, traditions and beliefs, as well as modes of production and institutional arrangements governing society. As such, it must be viewed as a central part of the development challenge.

Indeed, from the World Bank's work in Sub-Saharan Africa, we have recognized that many of the issues seem to be tied into the deep weaknesses of the institutional structures concerned with development. Some would argue that these weaknesses reflect the lack of a cultural dimension.

We have, in the Bank, begun to focus on these issues in terms of human resources, streamlining of administration and economic liberalization. Yet, it seems to me that in the context of the WDCD, we could go further by concentrating on two intertwined sectors of change : promotion of cultural identity; and empowerment of the people. The former is unlikely to happen without the latter. And empowerment cannot be developed in isolation from the cultural realities of society.

Every region draws upon an authentic heritage to define a shared image of self and society. The clarity of this cultural identity and its continuity are essential to provide a coherent framework within which norms of behavior are articulated, and to allow for incorporation of new elements. Such a framework is, I believe, a *sine-qua-non* for relevant, effective institutions without which no real development can take place. The lessons of failure in Africa can frequently, in fact, be traced to the absence of such institutions. More importantly, the lack of a viable cultural framework erodes national self-confidence and leads to social fragmentation with westernized elites and poor, alienated majorities.

AWARE OF THEIR PAST

The issues of culture are complex and should be approached with care. But approached they must be, for it is there that human beings become whole. It is there that societies find and define themselves. It is there that development is forged in the crucible of the minds of the people aware of their past and their present and imagining their future. That is what development is all about.

Ultimately, the essence of development will find its meaning in the extent to which there is a real change in the ability of people to live fuller lives and to have power over their own destinies.

The empowerment idea manifests itself at all levels of societal interaction. It is found in giving voice to the disenfranchised, in allowing the weak and the marginalized to forge their own destinies, and enabling each household to become the producer of its own welfare, rather than a consumer of other's charity.

This is a fundamental approach to project design, institution building, as well as in other areas of development. Both the design of projects and their implementation should closely involve users/beneficiaries. Institutions should be built with the real felt needs of the people in mind, and subject to their control.

Many of the things already being done by the Bank help promote transparency, accountability, institutional pluralism, participation, and the rule of law, all of which promote the objectives of this Decade. We are also carrying out a number of pilot/experimental projects.

Among these, one can cite the collaborative venture with UNESCO in exploring the effectiveness and reality of spontaneous organizations in Guinea, Togo, Benin and Cameroon. This project, which aims at a better understanding of how people organize themselves to cope with change, may lead us to the conclusion that we should rely more heavily on indigenous grassroots organizations. The study will also help identify non-economic activities that may be beneficial to development because they strengthen the community and give a sense of identity and self-confidence.

Another example is the Quality Circle Concept (QCC) project, being carried out with Japanese aid agencies in Burkina Faso. This is a first attempt at using African group dynamics to foster greater competition, thus greater efficiency in the management of enterprises and public administration. These and other pilot efforts assist us and the national governments concerned to deal better with complex issues of culture and empowerment.

We in the World Bank want to participate in this process, not with slogans or easy rhetoric, but through the patient, analytical approach to building, block by block, a new structure on the foundations of the present one, to enhance current thinking until it is not just quantitatively more accurate but qualitatively better. We must rise to this challenge if, as development specialists and international institutions, we are to continue to be both relevant and effective in helping the developing world move proudly into the third millennium.

Ismaïl SERAGELDIN
Director, Africa Department of the World Bank

BRIDGING PAST AND PRESENT

Revival of traditional script helps Mongolians rediscover their spiritual heritage.

Literature is a country's face", writes the French poet Louis Aragon. It "helps people to live" adds his compatriot Claude Roy. In short, how can one live without literature ? Yet this has been the fate of the Mongol people since 1941, when their traditional alphabet was replaced by the Cyrillic script.

A year ago the government of the People's Republic of Mongolia launched an ambitious programme to reintroduce the traditional script, which will allow the young and not so young to rediscover the treasures of national literature. The initiative has been backed by the secretariat of the World Decade for Cultural Development. *"Our people need knowledge"*, says D. Ougonkhuu, assistant director of the Institute of Mongol Writing, *"but they first need to know how to read and write their traditional script"*.

The land of Ghengis Khan, the silk roads and the Gobi desert inhabited by nomad hunters and shepherds, Mongolia today is a modern republic, determined to move with the times. However, democracy means more than a new political, legal and constitutional order - it has to incorporate the essence of a nation - culture, and this includes a script, literature and knowledge.

Mongolia's rich literary tradition goes back to the 13th century, when under the reign of Ghengis Khan, a variation of Turkish Ouigur script called Ougargen was adopted.

A rich body of literature thus accumulated over the seven following centuries : epics, legends, poetry, historical, philosophical and religious texts, the most famous being perhaps *"The secret history of the Mongols"* written around 1240. The number of texts written in the Ougargen alphabet runs into the tens of thousands - a body of work that is not merely the literary tradition of a people, it is the Mongol memory.

In 1941, Mongolia officially adopted a modified version of the Cyrillic script, already in use in the USSR. This became the only script used in official education and literacy programmes. Only a handful of scholars continued working on texts written in Ougargen. *"The only history and culture our young people know are those of the post revolutionary period"*, notes Mongol journalist, J. Jargal. *"The study of the traditional script will help them rediscover the spiritual heritage of their ancestors. It's like a bridge that links past and present."*

AN INACCESSIBLE HERITAGE

The study of Mongolia's ancient writing will enable the two generations that have gone to school since 1941 to learn about a centuries old literary and cultural patrimony, inaccessible for fifty years. *"In the past,"* explains Mongolian education minister, Norovyn Urtnasan, *"our education system was a mere reproduction of the East European model. Hence our cultural tradition could not be transmitted to our youth"*. Adds the education minister, *"Parallel to the changes in our society - our education system is also evolving. The aims are becoming less political and more cultural"*. The campaign to reintroduce the Ougargen script is three-pronged : beginning from the academic year 1991-1992, the script will progressively be reintroduced at all levels of teaching, and will be generalised at primary school level from 1995 onwards; between 1990 and 1995, a national adult education campaign will be launched with the use of the Ougargen script; finally, school manuals and education material for adults will have to be developed, tested and printed, not forgetting the masses of former books that will need to be reprinted. At the same time, almost all the teachers will have to be retrained.

This is obviously an ambitious plan for which the Education minister has asked for Unesco's help. A modest initial contribution of 20,000 dollars has already been accorded to help finance a centre for Ougargen writing.

Apart from its research and promotion activities, this centre will also develop appropriate computer software, word-processing and lap-top publishing in the Mongol script. Meanwhile, a Unesco delegation travelled to Mongolia at the end of last year, to draw up a detailed technical and material back-up project for the government's programme. At least two major funding sources have so far promised their support for this project.

Francis CHILDE

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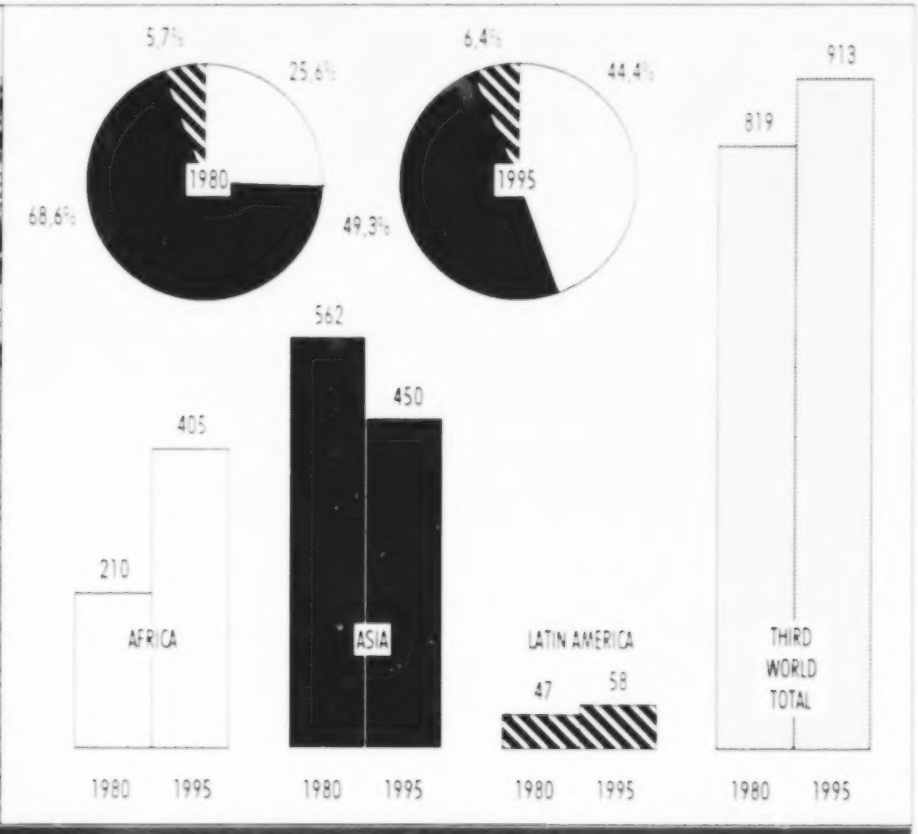
THE SIDE-EFFECTS OF "DEVELOPMENT"

Economic growth over the past decade has proved a major struggle. It has also become clear that there is no automatic correlation between increased income and human development. The proof : growing numbers of poor, a widening urban - rural gap , and increased levels of military expenditure.



THE NUMBER OF POOR IS ON THE RISE (Source : UNDP)

THE SWELLING RANKS OF THE POOR

From 1960 to 1980, average per capita revenue climbed by 2.9% in the developing countries. On the other hand, from 1980, per capita income fell annually by 2.4% in Sub-Saharan Africa. In Latin America, the drop was in the order of 0.7% , a marked reversal of the annual 3.8% increase measured between 1965 and 1980.

On top of this, the number of people living in *"absolute poverty"*, i.e. being unable to satisfy their basic food requirements, climbed by some 20 % between 1970 and 1985 to reach more than one billion today. This is due mainly to demographic growth and the economic crisis of the 80s, and contrasts with a fall in the percentage of poor overall in the Developing World.

Thus, between 1970 and 1985, the number of people living in poverty in Latin America climbed from 110 million to 150 million, of which 25% fell into the category of *"absolute poverty"*, even though the percentages fell during the same period from 40% to 33%. The situation is even more alarming in Sub-Saharan Africa, where in 1980 some 210 million people, or one quarter of the total population, lived in absolute poverty. If current trends persist the numbers will reach 405 million by 1995.

Neither have the rich countries been spared: in the United States, for example, some 13% of the population, or 32 million people do not earn enough to feed themselves.

The figures presented here should be read with caution. Information from national sources is not always adequate, nor comparable.

The figures for Asia do not include China where the number of people living in absolute poverty is estimated at 100 million.

(Graphics : A. Darmon
Photo : UNICEF/B.P. Wolff)

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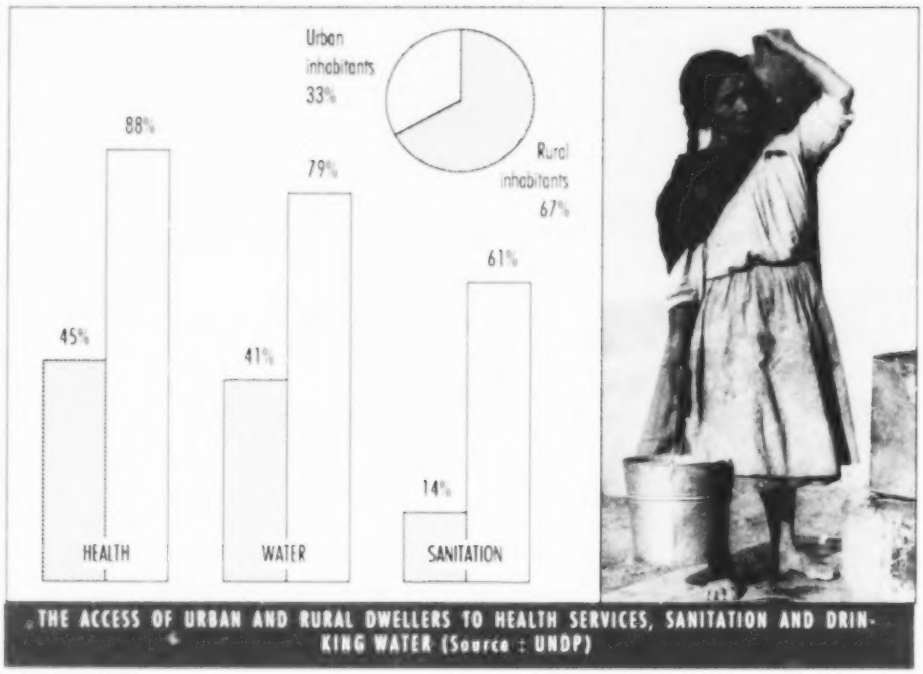


THE ACCESS OF URBAN AND RURAL DWELLERS TO HEALTH SERVICES, SANITATION AND DRINKING WATER (Source : UNDP)

THE GAP BETWEEN CITY AND COUNTRY

Two thirds of the population of developing countries live in rural zones. However, this overwhelming majority receives less than a quarter of the health and sanitation services available in these countries.

Consequently, the urban population has double the access to health services and supplies of drinking water, while sanitation services are quadrupled.

(Graphics A Darmon. Photo UNESCO)

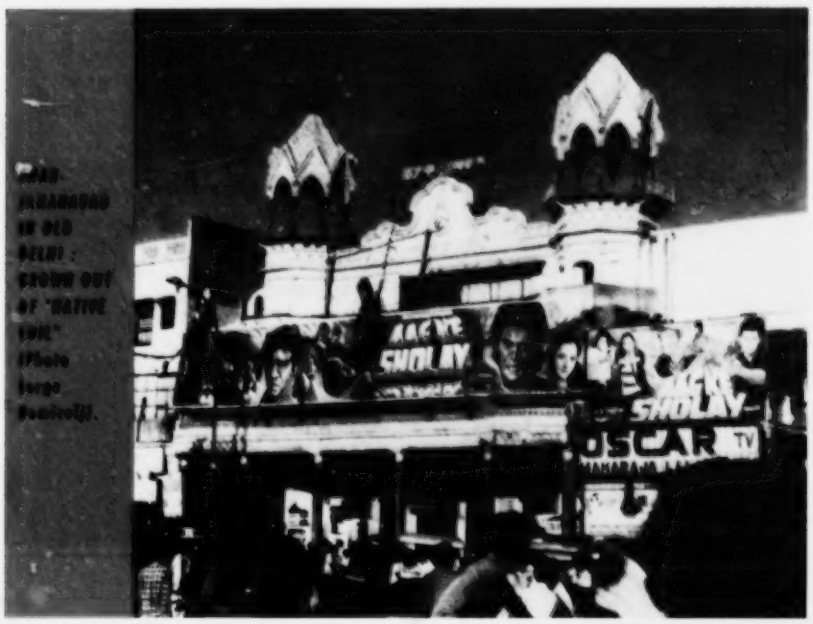
THE ARMS RACE

Developing countries devote the smallest percentage of GNP to military spending, however the annual growth rate of the amount spent is twice that of the industrialized countries. This adds up to an increase of 7.5% annually over the past 25 years. Thus the developing countries share of global military spending climbed from seven per cent in 1960 to 19% in 1986. In terms of income, this means the financial burden per inhabitant is triple that of the industrialized countries. The result: military spending by developing countries surpasses their combined budgets for education and health.

A SENSE OF PLACE

Ensuring the cultural and environmental dimensions of urban development.

As we edit the urban text - adding, erasing and reshaping our built environment - will we write it in our own dynamic dialect or in an ill-studied universal language, an Esperanto of building?" Such is the question that inspired a project aimed at improving urban conservation and development programmes by taking into account vital cultural and environmental dimensions; aspects often neglected in the race to house and employ the world's burgeoning numbers of city dwellers.



The project, "A sense of place", is the brainchild of Australian husband and wife team, Serge and Joan Domicelj, both urban architects and deeply involved in the conservation-versus-development debate.

"*As opposed to trying to preserve historic places in a pristine state,*" explains Serge, "*this project assumes that there is room for development, but that such development should contain cultural continuity and incorporate cultural specificities.*"

The overall project goal is to produce a set of guidelines - a unique checklist for planners and policy makers to use for urban development programmes to ensure that these elements are taken into account.

"*In the first phase of the project, we undertook to investigate the cultural traditions of the past along with the present cultural identities and aspirations of the national and local communities of three different countries, Australia, India and Argentina.*"

This was carried out with the universities of Sydney, Delhi and Buenos Aires, essentially through a series of workshops in the three countries, attended by urban planners, architects, historians and environmentalists, and a tri-national seminar at which the results of the workshops were discussed and compared. The participants studied a mixture of historic and modern sites: Fatehpur Sikri, Le Corbusier's Chandigarh and the ancient Shahjahanabad in India; the Jesuit ruins of the Missions of the Guarani Indians and the new city of Viedma in Argentina; and Kakadu National Park, Canberra and the older, inner Sydney suburbs of Ultimo and Pyrmont in Australia.

"*By looking first backwards and then forwards in time at what we perceive as our cultural identity,*" explains Joan Domicelj, "*we hoped to focus more clearly on the less obvious factors guiding urban development.*"

Why, for example, is Chandigarh "*a dead city*" after eight p.m? "*All the principles of architecture have been fully taken care of,*" says Moonis Raza, Vice Chancellor of Delhi University, "*but the city does not vibrate. It is a projection, not of the Indian historical tradition, but of something that has been brought from world experience, which is very valid but which does not grow out of the native soil and therefore has a certain infirmity...*".

On the other hand, Delhi's old walled city of Shahjahanabad, which has the highest population density in the world, has remained a vibrant centre so beloved by its inhabitants that when the government decided to tear down part of it (the Turkman Gate) to make way for a 20 storey hotel, 80 people died in the confrontation to stop the development. According to Raza, the reason for this devotion is the perfect adaptation of the old city to its inhabitants needs. "*The housing ... is a most intelligent way of using space. You have an internal courtyard and a verandah, beyond which there is a room. People spend most time on the verandah and in the courtyard, where there is sun, shade, air, wind and rain. In India, the bed on which you sleep should be so light that when it rains, you should be able to bring it onto the verandah. When it doesn't rain, you should be able to take it into the courtyard. This is really the most effective way of sleeping ...*

The second phase of the project, which is now underway, will extend the analysis by including Poland, and will see the guidelines drawn up. The third phase will then see the guidelines put to the test. Authorities in Vietnam have indicated they may be willing to participate at that stage.

"*We are not trying to prepare a universal blueprint for urban development,*" stresses Serge Domicelj. "*On the contrary, the aim is to draw up a set of criteria that will allow for maximum diversity; a checklist for users, outlining, for example, specific, local issues to be considered such as who should be consulted about development projects and the environmental factors that should be taken into account.*"

"*Too often, in the past, we have seen gifted designers produce cultural catastrophes; what we are trying to do is to prevent that from occurring in the future.*"

Sue WILLIAMS

LATIN AMERICAN CULTURE AT THE CROSSROADS

"Caught up in the ferment of a nascent mass culture in which the most sophisticated electronic equipment coexists with illiteracy and traditionalism".

After ten years dubbed the "lost decade" because of the severity of the economic crisis, Latin America now stands at a crossroads. Either it remains stationary amid economic mediocrity or it takes a leap into the future. If it chooses the former option, two things will happen : poverty levels will rise even higher and the economies of the region will be even less able to meet demands for competitiveness on international markets. This part of the world will then become more inegalitarian and will be unable to achieve political stability.

To take up the second option, however, three conditions are necessary which we Latin Americans have scarcely begun to accept :

1) democracy must be sustained and strengthened, 2) there must be a major change in our systems of production, and 3) both processes must be expressed in cultural terms and then provide feedback.

Democracy has ceased to be a luxury for the peoples of Latin America. It is no longer viewed as a merely formal arrangement, or a set of rules serving the powerful or the wealthy. The thousands of deaths in the past decade - on the battlefields of Central America and in the torture chambers of the dictatorships in South America - have taught Latin Americans a terrible lesson about the need for democracy. Today, at the start of the 1990s, democracy is beginning to look like common sense - something which never happened before. Only minorities at both ends of the political spectrum stand apart from that consensus.

THE THREATS TO DEMOCRACY

The threats to democracy have to do rather with the disillusionment that could set in if the means used are not efficient enough to satisfy social needs. Democracy will therefore be sustainable in Latin America only if it goes hand in hand with economic and social development. Democratic governments must prove that they can be efficient and not corrupt or frivolous; political parties will have to win the confidence of public opinion and refrain from acting only in the light of their ideology and interests.

Another latent threat to democracy, especially in countries that are just emerging from periods of military dictatorship or warfare, is the danger that the armed forces may not agree to perform their professional role under the authority of civilians, or that armed civilian groups may decide to continue to operate outside the political system. In the past, violence in Latin America has not only put paid to democracy but also, in the end, undermined the very foundations of social cohesion.

Up to a few years ago, many people in the governing classes and intellectual circles in Latin America dreamed of the possibility of finding a short cut to development, whether through political revolution, some populist formula, or through military dictatorship. The results of those dreams are lying in ruins now. Revolutions do not bring growth. Populism wreaks havoc with macro-economic variables and inevitably brings recession. Military dictatorships generally aggravate inequalities and their grandiose modernization projects are costly.

On the threshold of the 1990s, no one now seriously believes that it will be possible to find the road to development without at least fulfilling the following three basic conditions : a policy that ensures the stability of the main economic variables; a gradual but in-depth transformation of the economy in order to increase its productivity, its competitiveness and consequently its ability to hold its own on international markets; and efficient policies to improve social justice within the different societies. In short, there will be no development unless inflation is brought under control, healthy fiscal policies are introduced, industries are capable of incorporating technical advances and competing abroad, and the

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poorest population groups enjoy a growing share of income, employment and social benefits.

Latin American cultural life is constantly changing. Within a few decades, the pace has moved from the slowness of rural societies to something much more similar to that of post-modern cultures, although it has still not produced its own modernity. Latin America is, in fact, caught up in the ferment of a nascent mass culture that is beset by contradictions and tensions in which the most sophisticated electronic equipment coexists with illiteracy and the autochthonous cultures of the indigenous peoples, scientific pretentions flourish side by side with religious traditionalism, and the desire to preserve the purity of the "American dream" rivals the desire to imitate North America...

It is now necessary, in this paradoxical cultural pattern, for democracy to take shape as the new civic culture of the people, based on their rights and duties, a phenomenon hitherto absent from the intellectual and political scene in this region, and for development to be pursued through a work ethic, discipline and equity, all factors largely absent from the traditions of this continent. Octavio Paz once wrote : *"Societies carry within them, as it were, an explosive charge : that of the unforeseeable"*. In that sense, he said, they are mysterious.

But history also has another, equally explosive, side : that which is foreseeable in societies and may lead to disaster unless guided through proper channels. In this other sense, societies are even more mysterious, for they do not usually draw conclusions from what is foreseeable. They usually delude themselves in order to avoid having to accept the course of history mapped out before them.

THE DECADE'S LOGO DESIGNED BY SWISS PAINTER HANS ERNI

Latin America is carrying this doubly explosive payload. What is unforeseeable now is the direction it may take at the present crossroads. What is foreseeable, on the other hand, is most daunting. For there is near-general agreement that to move ahead and avoid being pushed on to the sidelines of history, Latin America must take up the difficult and nearly impossible three-fold challenge of retaining and improving the democracy that practically the entire region now enjoys, rebuilding its economy buffeted by a decade of failure, and doing both under the impetus of a genuinely modern culture.

José Joaquin BRUNNER
Latin-American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLAXO), Santiago, Chile

TO FIND OUT MORE ...

A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO THE WORLD DECADE FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, 1988-1997 : 2nd edition (revised), 1988. Provides practical information for all those responsible for conceiving, preparing and carrying out activities within the framework of the Decade. Also contains two chapters devoted to the presentation of possible activities, emphasizing their most characteristic aspects and modes of preparation and implementation. Available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Spanish language versions. UNESCO, 1988, 98 pp.

PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE DECADE : Explains the global context of the four primary objectives of the Decade, as well as proposing lines of emphasis and priority activities such as pilot projects, training, research and information exchanges. Available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. UNESCO, 1990, 48 pp.

STRATEGY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE DECADE : Defines six priority fields of action which could have significant impact, as well as a proposed organizational set-up and the potential roles among the different actors in the Decade. Available in Arabic, English, French, Russian and Chinese. UNESCO, 1990, 26 pp.

CULTURE PLUS : Decade quarterly newsletter, published in English and French. Provides information on current Decade activities both at UNESCO and elsewhere in the UN system, national and regional undertakings, reports on conferences and announcements of coming events, and feature articles on Decade projects of interest to a wide audience. Also contains news of the International Fund for the Promotion of Culture.

DECADE ON THE MOVE : A 16-minute video outlining the four principal objectives of the Decade and featuring portraits of initial activities undertaken in different regions of the world. Available in English and French language versions. UNESCO, 1989.

CULTURE : THE WAY TO SOLIDARITY IN DEVELOPMENT : Published by the Conference of the International Catholic Organizations, with a preface by Cardinal Paul Poupard, President of the Pontifical Council for Culture. The third book in a collection entitled "Christians and International Life", this book explores such themes as the meaning and moral code of real development, furthering the dialogue between cultures, as well as the specific contribution of Catholic Organizations in cultural development. English, French, Spanish versions available. CICO (Paris), 1989, 80 pp.

WORLD DECADE FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, the UNESCO Courier, November 1988. Includes essay on the Decade by Mr. Federico Mayor, Director-General of UNESCO, as well as several feature articles on Decade projects, including the revival of the Alexandria Library and the Integral Study of the Silk Roads. Several different language versions available.

THE CULTURAL DIMENSION OF DEVELOPMENT : Compiled by Ms Luce Kellermann, this annotated bibliography lists nearly 700 documents dealing with different aspects of culture and development, including research undertaken in all the major regions of the Word. English and French editions available. UNESCO, 1986, 350 pp.

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To celebrate the 30th anniversary of its International Art Calender, the German Group ZANDERS Feinpapiere AG joined with UNESCO and the Council of Graphic Design Association to produce its prestigious 1991 version. Fourteen artists from around the world participated in the venture, working in such a way that some element of each painting links it with the next.

The calendar (80x60 cm) will be sent free of charge to the first 200 readers of UNESCO SOURCES who fill in and send the form below to: ZANDERS Feinpapiere AG, Advertising Department, Att. Birgit Krug, An der Gohrsmühle, D-5060 Bergish Gladbach 2, Germany

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WORDS IN COLOUR

A learning "tool" which substitutes the relation sound/colour for sound/graphics is helping win the battle against illiteracy.

The *"classroom"* in the Municipal Social Centre was non-conventional to say the least. And so were the *"students"* at the bi-weekly literacy class that evening in Chilly-Mazarin, a small city with a big immigrant population, 21 km south of Paris.

Not one among the nine *"learners"*, aged 16 to 47, was passively sitting behind a desk. No one was torturing his or her brain to memorize, guess at or *"sound out"* strange symbols or shapes on a blackboard. In fact there were no *"black"* boards, only charts, in bright colours. And obviously, everyone was having a good time.

A chart on the front wall was covered with coloured rectangles, one for each vowel, consonant or diphthong in the French language. Along the sides of the room, other charts linked the same colours to their alphabetical symbols.

Using long metal pointers and taking rapid turns, Zaira, 16, of Chad, followed by Maria from Portugal, another woman from Chili, several young men from Magreb countries, and a Frenchman of 19, were energetically decoding the colours, sounds to syllables, to words, then, amidst general encouragement, laughter, applause, or proposed alternatives, to phrases, and sentences, some of which became parts of short stories.

Off to the side, her eyes sparkling with warmth and enthusiasm, Francine Rochereuil, who organizes the classes, sometimes gestured, puckered or rounded her lips to mimick a sound, but prefers to be called an *"interactor"* or *"mediator"* rather than teacher. *"The learners,"* she insists, *"are actually teaching themselves."* Like her colleagues, she is a fervent advocate of *"Words in Colour"* which they describe as a pedagogy rather than a method.

Mme Rochereuil is convinced that the rapid and lasting results obtained with this approach are due to the fact that learners immediately savour the sweet taste of success.

"It's no fun being illiterate in our society," she said. *"Everything contributes to a loss of self-confidence and self-esteem. Here when people find themselves capable of constant progress, it's a kind of awakening. Mental barriers come down, and when this happens, the learning process can go ahead uninhibited, so the transition from colour to reading black and white print, then to writing becomes simple."*

"Words in Colour" was developed by Caleb Gattegno who was born in Alexandria (Egypt), then educated as a mathematician in France and Switzerland before going to live and work in New York.

After World War II, he was instrumental in focusing renewed attention on Jean Piaget, two of whose books he translated. He also spent 20 months(1956 to 1958) in

FRANCINE ROCHEREUIL AND MARIA (PORTUGAL) AT "WORDS IN COLOUR" LITERACY CLASS IN CHILLY-MAZARIN. (Photo Unesco/ Dominique Roger).

IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION at all levels is the main aim of 10 UNESCO projects being specially prepared for the occupied Arab territories. The projects result from a comprehensive report carried out last year by the Organization on the needs of Palestinians in education and training. This comes on top of the regular support UNESCO provides to Palestinian educational institutions either directly or in co-operation with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNWRA). Apart from satisfying the most immediate requirements, the projects will also aim at helping to lay solid foundations for the future development of the troubled education system in the territories.

SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN FOUR AFRICAN COUNTRIES participated during the month of March in UNESCO-organized training programmes on the identification and preparation of projects likely to attract foreign aid.

An economist specializing in social and cultural indicators, a specialist in general education and culture and a science policy expert conducted the five-day courses in Kenya, Tanzania, the Seychelles and Zambia on the basis of a guide prepared by UNESCO to help countries that wish to take on the training by themselves. The courses were organized under the *"Priority Africa"* programme.

PROMOTING DISTANCE EDUCATION IN AFRICA via radio, TV and correspondence is the aim of a $2m project drawn up under UNESCO's *"Priority Africa"* programme. The first phase of the project, which will be presented to UNDP for financing from 1992-1996, includes an evaluation of existing distance education facilities, the preparation of a guide on their management and the setting up of an information network and co-ordination unit. Training and the production of pedagogic materials constitute more than 65 per cent of the project's budget.

Ethiopia for the UN's Technical Assistance Board, producing 48 textbooks in all fields, and devising new teaching methods. Dr. Gattegno died in 1988 at age 76, but his work is being continued by ardent colleagues and disciples in some 40 countries.

His theories, embodied in over 50 books, contend that *"Anyone who has learned to speak, can learn to read,"* provided, he insisted, that teaching be subordinated to learning. *"Children make some of the most difficult achievements of their lives, learning to walk, feed themselves, and most complex of all - use the spoken language. Why then, shift the focus from learning to teaching ?"* Instead he urged the use of self-instructional devices, like the colour-coded sounds and letters he invented, to release a child's - or reinstate an adult's - natural capacity to figure things out for themselves and make connections.

A FLURRY OF METHODS

Ever since 1984, when the Government published *"Illiteracy in France"*, estimating that millions were affected, and another study in 1988 revealed that one French adult in five, or about 17.8 % of the adult population (in some industrialized countries, the figure is as high as 25 %), had severe reading and writing problems, literacy classes have mushroomed all over the country, accompanied by a flurry of teaching methods with widely varying degrees of success and usually high drop-out rates.

According to Claudie Gattegno who is continuing her uncle's work in the Paris region, literacy teachers are desperate for more effective methods, to achieve better results. Constantly solicited by local authorities and associations to organize literacy classes and *"teacher"* training courses, she said *"I just can't keep up with the demand."*

"Words in Colour" is also being used by a team of psychologists at the Centre Henri Rousselle, a unit of Paris Hospital Sainte Anne, for children with severe learning difficulties. *"An estimated 20 % of French children entering 6th grade are non-readers,"* said Claire Meljac who directs the Unit. *"Using this method, a child with a long history of school failure, rapidly regains confidence and generally can learn to read in about 25 hours."*

For UNESCO, the promotion of a technique so widely hailed, seemed like a logical move on the eve of International Literacy Year 1990. As a first step, the Organization agreed to finance training in the method for INSERMEDIA, a non-profit association working for better social and professional integration of adults and youth in the Bordeaux region. Carol Rose, another member of the Henri Rousselle team, and a former collaborator of Gattegno was commissioned to do the job, and INSERMEDIA later obtained additional assistance and materials from "Une Ecole pour Demain", the Gattegno Centre in Besançon, France.

During a recent demonstration at UNESCO's Paris Headquarters, Mokrad Ait-Ali, Director of INSERMEDIA, reported that results with *"Words in Colour"* which *"totally and actively involves learners of all ages and situations, is adaptable in all languages, and requires minimal investment,"* had been so *"astonishing""* that it was generally replacing all other methods for literacy work in the region. *"In 350 hours,"* he said, *"we have obtained very positive results whereas other methods, provided they succeed at all, require from 700 to 1,200 hours."*

Further spreading the WORDS - (in colour) - a demonstration was organized during a collective consultation of 50 literacy NGOs at the UNESCO Institute for Education in Hamburg (RFA) last December. And next month, 35 years after Caleb Gattegno's stay in Ethiopia, his *"Words in Colour"* will be back in Africa for a demonstration at UNESCO's Regional Bureau for Education in Dakar (Senegal). The hope is that Gattegno's *"tool"* can also help build literacy for the many millions of men and women - unless, of course, they're colour-blind - in the Third World.

Betty WERTHER

☛ **Gattegno Centres in many countries, including notably :**

Une Ecole Pour Demain
7, rue de Belfort
25000 Besançon, France

Educational Solutions, Inc.
95 University Place, New York City
NY 10003, U.S.A.

▼

HELPING ILLITERATE CITIZENS to negotiate the diffficulties of today's bureaucracies was the key issue discussed at a European seminar on "Illiteracy and the Complexity of Contemporary Administrations", organized by the French National Commission for UNESCO and held at Headquarters from March 11-13. Simplifying administrative language, establishing information centres and employing mediators for the illiterate were some of the suggestions put forward by the participants, representing the administrations of their countries. Concrete measures already taken in France, Ireland and Sweden, were also described.

●

FIFTY YOUTH COUNSELLORS from Barcelona (Spain) and its environs visited UNESCO Headquarters on March 5, where they were notably briefed on activities of the Organization's Youth Division.

YOUTH COUNSELLORS FROM BARCELONA AT THE VISITORS' INFORMATION CENTRE (Photo Unesco/Michel Claude).

During 1990, over 25,000 visitors from about 30 countries, including many in Eastern Europe, participated in the guided tours organized by the Visitors Information Centre. Specially tailored to groups of all ages and academic levels, business and industrial concerns and a wide range of associations, the one to two-hour programmes include films, explanations of UNESCO's activities and a visit inside and out of the Headquarters building, a famous Paris landmark.

☛ *Visitors Information Centre.*

●

THE THIRD OF UNESCO's EXPEDITIONS under the Integral Study of the Silk Roads : Roads of Dialogue kicks off this month. After the desert and maritime routes, an international team of scientists will this time cross the steppes of Soviet Central Asia. Some 55 scientists will take part in the voyage - 25 Soviets along with 30 others from all corners of the globe. The expedition leaves Ashkhabad on April 19 and winds up in Alma Ata on June 18, travelling via Turjekistan, Kirgizia, Uzbekistan and Kazakstan.

▼

ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITIONS, documentary films, demonstrations of calligraphy and an evening of traditional songs and dances highlighted events organized by the Permanent Delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, to mark their country's "Cultural Week" at Headquarters from February 18-24.

TRADITIONAL DANCING PERFORMED BY A TRIO FROM THE NORTH KOREAN CAPITAL, PYONGYANG (Photo Unesco).

●

"TILAI", BY BURKINABE FILM-MAKER, IDRISSA OUEDRAOGO, picked up the major prize at this year's FESPACO - Africa's biggest film festival - held in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) from February 23 to March 3.Part of Ouedraogo's prize includes a $5000 contribution from UNESCO to help with distribution of the film.
The UNESCO supported film, "Voice of the Wood", by Issiaka Konate was selected as the Best Documentary by the jury, which was headed by Malian cinematographer, Souleymane Cisse.

15,500 SEA-MILES LATER...

An extraordinary four and a half month sea voyage retracing the ancient maritime silk route reaches its final port.

The second of UNESCO's expeditions under the Integral Study of the Silk Roads : Roads of Dialogue was successfully completed on March 9. The journey, which started in Venice last October 23 and covered more than 15,500 nautical miles visiting 21 ports in 16 countries, allowed more than 90 academics and scientists from disciplines, ranging from archaeology to ethnomusicology and economics the opportunity to meet and compare knowledge with their counterparts from all corners of the globe. The expedition proved an invaluable scientific exercise and a remarkable human adventure. "Sources" correspondent, Latika Padgaonkar, joined the travellers for the last stage of their journey.

In every way, the final leg of UNESCO's Maritime Expedition that traced the silken threads of an agelong cultural exchange through China, Korea and Japan, was a majestic and regal passage, dipping into the corridors of time where history and memory held another dimension.

From the halt in Quanzhou in China, long reputed to be one of the starting points of the sea route, to Kyongju, Korea, the ancient capital of the Shilla kings for a thousand years, and finally to Nara in Japan, also a one-time capital and the cradle of her great arts, UNESCO's expedition lived through an experience as rich and dense as it was unique.

Rich in the incredible variety of treasures seen : Quanzhou, China's trading port for over 700 years whose prosperity astounded Marco Polo (*"It is unimaginable,"* he wrote, *"that so many merchants converge here and the merchandise piled up sky-high."*) - a city where Buddhism, Hinduism, Taoism, Manecheism, Islam and Christianity flourished at different moments of history and lived to tell their tale in mosque and temple, rock and sculpture. Quanzhou, where we were greeted as the *"Cosmo Envoys of Peace"* and welcomed everywhere with bands, flowers, balloons, buntings and fireworks. Or Kyongju, an open-air museum of Buddhist art, its frosty landscape dotted with pagodas, monasteries and grottos - where the Shilla dynasty not only unified Korea's three warring kingdoms for the first time, but Korean language and culture as well, adopting in the process foreign elements such as Buddhism and Confucianism.

OF NATIONAL TREASURES

Hakata, Japan's gateway to Asia and her first city to receive a surge of culture from the mainland. As if to prove this, a 98% pure gold seal was discovered on an island in the bay of Fukuoka in 1784. Engraved with the words *"Kan-no wa-no no-no Kuni-no Oh"* (King of Kan-no Wa-no Na-no Country), it was presented by the Eastern Han Emperor to the Na King of Japan and is today a national treasure, important because it is one of those rare early pieces that clearly identifies its date - 57 A.D.. And finally Nara, with the grace and utter serenity of its countless temples and the aesthetic rigour of its gardens in whose precincts time and space become irrelevant.

DANCERS WELCOME THE ARRIVAL OF THE FULK-AL-SALAMAH AT QUANZHOU (CHINA). (Photo UNESCO).

Unique because the cultural component had its intellectual side as well. High quality seminars linked each country's

THE "ANCIENT IMMORTAL" - A MASSIVE 5.1 METRE HIGH STATUE CARVED OUT OF ONE PIECE OF STONE AT LAOJUN (CHINA). (Photo UNESCO).

place and role in the Silk Route map to other countries and embraced a range of topics that gave substance and meaning to the sites visited : manufacture and trade of silk and ceramics, history of ship-building and navigation, cartography, Islamic inscriptions, Central Asian influences, dental anthropology, to name only a few. For Jean-Jacques Boucher, an expert in silk, the voyage was an opportunity to visit factories and see the production of silk in different countries. The technical aspect was as valuable as the cultural.

STUDYING THE MISSING LINKS

Unique also because scholars and experts from the world over read papers and participated in discussions, exchanging points of view, debating theories and enriching each other's knowledge, both at the ports of call and on board the ship Fulk-al-Salamah, loaned to UNESCO by His Majesty the Sultan of Oman ; and because of the presence of high-level government officials (indeed, the inauguration at Nara was graced by His imperial Highness Prince Misaka) and the boost given to the project by media coverage. In China, for instance, newspapers and television had spoken widely of the Silk Road for a month before the ship's arrival. The information blitz led to a large-scale public response to and interest in the Expedition. *"We are dialoguing with the past,"* said H. E. Musa bin Jaffar, Oman's Ambassador to UNESCO, *"and in doing so, we are studying the missing links. All this learning has shed light not only on the history of other lands but on our own as well."*

Learning and understanding - on land and on sea. The ship became a metaphor, a microcosm of the world. *"This trip,"* said art historian Madanjeet Singh, *"and the earlier desert route have been the most memorable ones of my life. With all the money in the world we could never have come to this personal enrichment."*

And beneath the ship, the deep symbolism of the sea, in the words of UNESCO's Project Co-ordinator, Doudou Diene, *"which both unites and separates..." "Since our departure from Venice,"* he said, *"we have witnessed ... (the) unfolding of a network of contacts.. which have been hidden by national ideologies or a narrow approach to history and culture."*

That, of course, is the Project's aim : to launch a multi-pronged enquiry into the repository of human history. The curtain has been lifted wide. It is up to each of us now to pick up the skeins and weave them afresh.

Latika PADGAONKAR

●

MODELLING FOR POPULATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, a new book just published by Routledge (London/New York) and the International Social Science Council with the co-operation of UNESCO, presents ECCO - Enhancement of Population Carrying Capacity Options. A computer modelling approach links population issues and development concerns, drawing special attention to the "carrying capacity" of a given territory to sustain its population with a given quality of life, cultural particularity and foreseeable impact on the environment.

☛ *Routledge, 11 New Fetter Lane, London EC4P 4EE.*

▼

THE FIRST TWO BIOSPHERE RESERVES IN BRAZIL were approved by the Bureau of the Coordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme, meeting at Headquarters from March 5 to 7. Part of the Atlantic Forest of the Brazilian coast, they are : the Tijuca-Tingu-Orgaos reserve in or near Rio de Janeiro, and the Vale do Ribeira and Serra de Graciosa reserve along the coastline southeast of Sao Paulo. Both areas are seriously threatened by over-exploitation Five other reserves were approved by the Bureau : three in Germany (the Rhon reserve, on the old border zone between East and West Germany, the Spreewald reserve near Berlin, and the Rugen reserve on the Baltic Sea) ; one in the U.S. ("The Land Between the Lakes") ; and one in Kenya (Amboseli, north of Mt. Kilimanjaro). The new additions bring the number of MAB biosphere reserves to 300 in 75 countries.

●

IMPROVING KNOWLEDGE OF THE OCEAN is the aim of an ambitious project launched by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) at its biennial Assembly held at Headquarters from March 7-21. GOOS - the Global Ocean Observing System will collect, analyse and distribute physical, chemical and biological data from the seas, allowing for more accurate weather forecasts and benefitting the fishing, shipping, oil and gas industries as well as helping with pollution control.

HELP FOR THE GULF

Unesco launches emergency aid plan for refugees and reconstruction in war-ravaged countries.

"Nothing like this has ever happened anywhere," said Abdulgader El Atrash, UNESCO's representative in Kuwait since 1984, referring to the shattered state of the education system in the war-ravaged country.

Indeed, the request addressed to the Organization by Mohammed Khodari, Kuwait's Under-Secretary of State for Education, and particularly the reasoning behind the request, is also exceptional.

"The citizens were used to taking more than to giving", Khodari said, *"and they had an inferior attitude towards manual work and vocational studies."*

In short, the Under-Secretary said that, since the old school system had not taught Kuwaitis self-reliance, it needed to be totally revamped.

Help was, therefore, being requested from UNESCO to introduce "radical changes" to curriculum, teacher training, textbooks, student evaluation and the educational management system.

A specialist is already on the spot to carry out a preliminary assessment of damage to school buildings. Others will follow to take stock of the nature and magnitude of needs, and in April, the Kuwaitis plan to send a delegation to UNESCO's Paris Headquarters to lay final plans for setting the assistance programme in motion.

On a broader scale, the Organization is preparing a Plan of Action for humanitarian and rehabilitation assistance to countries affected by the Gulf war. Representing a total estimated cost of $1.4 million, of which one million can be made immediately available to requesting countries, the Plan provides for technical support and the mobilization of resources for emergency assistance in UNESCO's fields of competence, notably to Kuwait and Iraq.

Its first phase concerns the urgent educational needs of Iraqi refugees in Iran, Jordan and Turkey, who cannot return to their country in the foreseeable future. Estimated at several tens of thousands - their number fluctuates constantly depending on circumstances - they will receive basic materials for school-age children as well as intensive short training of teachers and parents for the conduct of classes until the children are accommodated again in the formal system.

In addition, about two million Egyptians, Jordanians, Palestians, Syrians, Yemenites, etc. who fled the combat zone, have returned to their countries of origin. For these repatriates, UNESCO has already begun the large scale purchase of textbooks in Egypt and Jordan.

Above all, UNESCO, following the disastrous "oil spill", will concentrate on the environment, notably through the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission. Immediate and short-term action includes: an assessment of pollution and its effects on the marine eco-system, and of the war's impact on the flora and fauna of the region, as well as ways for dealing with this ecological disaster.

Immediate action also involves an evaluation of the effects of smoke produced by burning oil wells on the quality of water, soil, plants and human health. Among long-term plans, priority will be given to a study of the physical and chemical characteristics of Gulf waters, including the training of local specialists to do the job.

Finally, those parts of the Plan concerning Iraq will be elaborated as soon as the experts can take stock of damage and determine reconstruction needs accordingly.

René LEFORT

●

SOME 20 TRAINEES FROM THE GULF STATES took part in a training programme in March on the care and rehabilitation of wildlife affected by oil spills.
The trainees saw these effects first hand in the Gulf, where the oil spill provoked by the war was estimated at 1.5 million barrels.
Organized by UNESCO with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), the two-week course was held in Doha, Qatar, with five specialists who had worked on the 1989 Alaska oil spill. The participants were taught how oil affects wildlife, how to assess damage to wildlife, how to capture, transport and clean oiled animals and how to relocate threatened populations.

▼

A DELEGATION FROM THE NETHERLANDS met with UNESCO at Headquarters on March 21 to present new Dutch policy regarding international cooperation, particularly with developing countries - a policy which places renewed emphasis on cooperation with international organizations, notably UNESCO.
At the meeting, UNESCO specialists and high officials from the Netherlands discussed possibilities for multi-bilateral cooperation in areas of mutual interest, particularly basic education, women's concerns and the environment. They also outlined the procedure for presenting projects to the Netherlands for financial assistance.

●

THE FIRST OF A SERIES of information meetings aimed at making UNESCO's programme and activities better known, was inaugurated by the Office of Public Information at Headquarters on March 20.
Devoted to the theme of literacy, it brought together some 30 French and Paris-based foreign journalists with about 10 UNESCO specialists.

RECONSTRUCTING CAMBODIA

UNESCO's first mission to Cambodia in 15 years appeals for aid to reconstruct the war-torn nation's school system and media network.

"The government is desperate," says Akihiro Chiba, Director of the Bureau of Co-ordination of Operational Activities, who headed theUNESCO team. *"They want every possible help."*

The three week mission, which ended February 8, has compiled a list of priorities for Cambodia, including: the organization of a national conference on education, and training for radio and TV personnel with a view to using the electronic media to promote awareness on cultural heritage and the environment, and, more concretely, such issues as the danger of land mines - how to recognize land mine emplacements and how to treat land mine victims.

Cambodian officials told the specialists that primary education is plagued, among other things, by early drop-outs, a lack of teacher training facilities and insufficient teacher salaries. In a typical rural school visited in the southern province of Takeo, there were 338 pupils in the first grade and only 88, of whom a mere 13 were girls, in the fifth grade. The teachers received a regular monthly salary of 3,000 Riel (or about $5) and an allocation of rice.

The scenario is not much better in the area of communications. Between 1975 and 1979 Cambodia lost the majority of its skilled personnel. Only four radio broadcasting engineers and a few print journalists or newspaper technical personnel are believed to have survived the conflict.

Equipment is mostly outdated and spare parts are badly needed. The country's newsagency, SPK, receives despatches from its provincial correspondents by morse code and national distribution of its material is mostly by mail.

Other needs mentioned in the 133 - page report released by the mission include language instruction by radio and television; literacy programmes for hill tribes; improvement of printing and distribution capacity; inventory of over 1,000 historic monuments and classes in entrepreneurship and self-employment.

Finally the importance of restoring Cambodia's cultural identity was also stressed. To this end, the specialists suggested using the Angkor temple complex as a pivot for both promoting national pride and sensitizing world opinion to the plight of the Cambodian people.

"The stone monuments were not damaged in the war," says Chiba, however natural hazards, from torrential rains to large tropical trees pushing their way up through the temples, and decades of looting and neglect have taken their toll. UNESCO wants an international panel of experts formed to help the Cambodian government to create a co-ordinated strategy and set scientific standards for the monument's restoration and preservation.

The Angkor culture is such a potent symbol of the nation that the mission felt its restoration would play a critical role in both uniting Cambodia's various factions and inspiring the people - traumatized by a war which in which 1.5 million were killed - to rebuild their country.

Peter LOWREY

●

A CENTRAL DISTRIBUTION NETWORK for Scientific Publications in the Third World should become operational in early 1992. Designed by the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU) with support from the General Information Programme of UNESCO, the project was examined at a meeting at Headquarters on March 11 and 12. The idea grew from the realization that, while several programmes to donate sorely needed scientific books and journals exist, there is no international coordination of these efforts. The new network will put interested donors in touch with the most appropriate participating programme to find a recipient, store and ship the material.

▼

UNESCO IS IN A UNIQUE POSITION to study the links between science and culture, and to serve as a mediator for initiating a dialogue between the actors in the development process. Such was the conclusion of the International Scientific Council for Science and Technology Policy Development, meeting at Headquarters, March 4 - 6. The Council recommended that in UNESCO's S&T programme, priority be given to the training of policy-makers, S&T managers, and policy analysts. Since the existing networks in Asia and Latin America are so efficient for developing human resources, the Council also stressed the need to establish similar networks in Africa, and in the Arab States.

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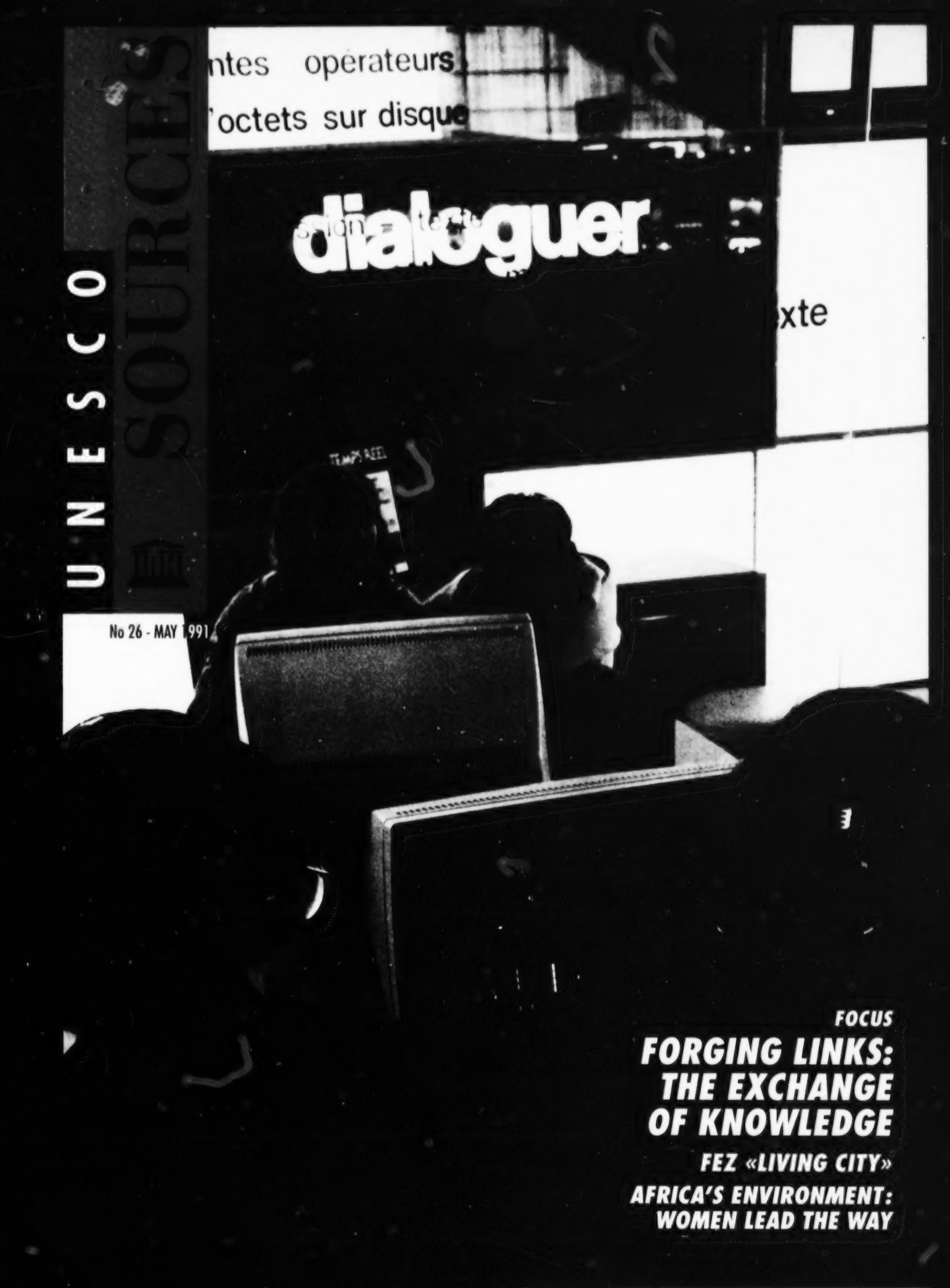
.....LOOKING AHEAD....

The EXECUTIVE BOARD will hold its 136th session from May 21 to June 14 at Headquarters : it will notably examine the Draft Programme and Budget for 1992-1993 and prepare the agenda for the 26th session of Unesco's General

Two **PUBLIC LECTURES** are also scheduled at Headquarters : on May 15, Professor Jean Bernard will discuss "Ethics and Epidemiology" ; on May 23, the French and German philosophers Barbara Cassin, Jacques Derrida and Reiner Wiehl will address the theme "The Right to Philosophy from a Cosmopolitan Point of View."

A number of meetings organized by the **INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION (IOC)** include : an Interregional Scientific Conference on "Coastal Systems Studies and Sustainable Development" at Headquarters from May 21 to 25 ; participants will notably discuss human influence and evolution of the demography in the coastal zone and the consequences of global changes in these areas : the 12th session of the Joint SCOR-IOC Committee on Climatic Changes and the Ocean will be held in Woods Hole (U.S.A.) from June 4 to 10 ; the 13th session of the IOC-IHO Guiding Committee for the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO) will be held in Leningrad (U.R.S.S.) from June 10 to 12.

An International Meeting of Regional Training Institutions for **COMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT** will be attended by some 100 representatives of these institutions at Headquarters from June 12 to 14, notably to put forth innovative proposals for strengthening regional and international training programmes.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FOCUS
FORGING LINKS: THE EXCHANGE OF KNOWLEDGE
FEZ «LIVING CITY»
AFRICA'S ENVIRONMENT: WOMEN LEAD THE WAY

Readers, we have reserved this page for your comments, suggestions and criticisms. Consider it yours !

SIMPLISTIC AND BUCOLIC VISION

Jacques Bertrand
UNESCO
PARIS, France

✉✉✉ Since I closely follow all developments concerning the environment, I have just read your March issue (No 24) with the greatest interest.

I would, nonetheless, like to comment on *"Universities Unite"* - a project to save the Amazon basin, on pages 18 and 19. Contrary to the widely held, but simplistic and bucolic vision of this region, the Amazon is not *"the lungs of the world."* Pre-conceived notions which contend that this immense territory provides the oxygen for the planet are scientifically unfounded. In fact, this image was created during the 1970s, in ecological circles working to oppose the construction of the trans-Amazonian highway.

In light of two scientific expeditions baptized GTE - ABLE carried out in 1985 and 1987 by the Brazilian Institute for Space Studies (INTE) and the NASA (U.S.A.) it is now recognized that, in order to preserve a vital humidity level during the hottest hours of the day during the "dry" season, the forest suspends all photosynthesis - the process in which chlorophyll-containing plants use light to convert carbon dioxide and water into carbohydrates for their own consumption and release oxygen into the atmosphere. During this "dry" period the forest does the exact opposite: it releases large quantities of CO_2 and absorbs oxygen in equivalent proportions.

This suspension of photosynthesis, a marvelous natural defense system which enables the forest to avoid dehydration at the hottest time of the year, assures its survival. During the rainy season, photosynthesis resumes normally, the forest absorbing CO_2 and releasing oxygen, but only locally, - with no wider effect.

INTIMATE SNAPSHOTS OF OUR PLANET

Benjamin Arseguel
Designer-Producer
Paris, France

✉✉✉ Your *"Coastal Alert: Tides of Change"* issue was superb. Especially striking was the inclusion of the satellite images of our endangered home: intimate snapshots of our planet, including of the Arab-Persian Gulf. Oh, those fortunate astronauts! A few world leaders should have gone up with them or had these photos in their albums before devastating this little corner of Mother Earth.

AGREABLE NEW "LOOK"

Nika Kabwasa
Programme specialist
Division of Population and Human Settlements
Social and Human Sciences Sector
UNESCO
PARIS, France

✉✉✉ Congratulations on your February 1991 (No 23) issue.

The format is attractive. Your new *"look"* is less compact, more readable. For a *"company"* journal, bravo ! Soon you will be on all the newstands. In fact I will eagerly stop to buy a copy.

A colleague, supporter and ardent reader of UNESCO SOURCES.

✍

Thanks for your compliments and encouragement, but we doubt that our magazine will ever be sold on newstands. - ED

A WEALTH OF INFORMATION

Fakéla Sane
Dakar,
Senegal

✉✉✉ I am writing for the first time to say how much I appreciate SOURCES. It truly provides a wealth of information on UNESCO, and is, moreover, very readable. The articles are short and clear, the layout, already excellent, has become even more agreable with the red bands highlighting contents and captions, beginning with your February issue (No 23).

I particularly enjoyed your dossier on UNESCO Clubs which enabled me to become more familiar with these associations which are not well enough known in Senegal.

Bravo for all you are doing. Continue your good work, but, please, don't forget Africa, this continent which no longer draws much interest - even, alas, at UNESCO.

✍

In May 1990 we devoted our central dossier to "Africa:Autopsy of a Crisis". Indeed, your continent has not been forgotten by UNESCO which has adopted a programme of action, "Priority Africa", for the years 1990-1995 - ED.

SPOTLIGHT ON UNIVERSALITY

In theory, all Executive Board sessions are of equal importance. In practice, some are more equal than others, as will be borne out by the Executive Board's proceedings from 14 May to 14 June.

Officially, UNESCO's activities and resources for 1992-1993 and the preparations for the next General Conference will top the agenda.

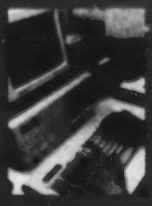
Unofficially, Japan's recent proposal for a substantial amendment to UNESCO's Constitution will be on everybody's mind. And just as in every other major debate in past years, a shared concern will determine the positions taken up by the parties involved : UNESCO's universality, in other words, the return to membership as soon as possible for the United States and the United Kingdom.

This is the underlying aim of the Japanese initiative. Tokyo proposes that Member States rather than individuals should henceforth sit on the Executive Board, that a subsidiary body of experts be set up to advise the Board on administrative and financial matters, and that a "framework" be created to "reinvigorate" UNESCO as an intellectual forum with the aid of distinguished persons from outside. Japan hopes in this way to improve the Board's "efficiency" with a view to surmounting UNESCO's "serious and numerous" problems without delay, while at the same time "recovering universality as soon as possible".

This approach to the problem ties in with the conclusion of a study by Mr. Hector Gros Espiell, an eminent legal authority and currently Foreign Minister of Uruguay. His argument, insofar as it can be summarized without distortion, is three-pronged : universality is a constituent principle of the United Nations ; as the Specialized Agencies, including UNESCO, form part of a single system linked to the United Nations, the basic characteristics of each agency include this principle ; hence the withdrawal of a Member State, while wholly legitimate, must be resorted to only in exceptional cases and "should be limited in time pending the solution of the problems that provoked it."

Will the Member - and non-member - States be convinced by this argument and decide that this is an idea whose time has come ?

René LEFORT



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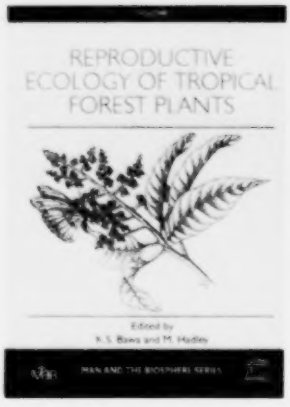


REPRODUCTIVE ECOLOGY OF TROPICAL FOREST PLANTS

The aim of this book, seventh in the Man the Biosphere (MAB) Book Series, is to review recent developments in the reproductive ecology of tropical forest plants, and to explore the implications of current findings on forest structure, function, management and conservation. It also examines how insights gained from reproductive ecology, defined in a broad sense to include seedling establishment and regeneration, can be helpful in the management of tropical forest resources, and it signposts directions for future research.

● **Reproductive Ecology of Tropical Forest Plants**, *edited by K.S. Bawa and M. Hadley, MAB Book Series, Vol. 7, UNESCO/Parthenon Publishing, 1991, 421 pp., illus., Eng. only, 340 FF.*

FAMILY, HOUSEHOLD AND GENDER RELATIONS IN LATIN AMERICA

This study of family, household and gender relations in Latin America by leading specialists illustrates new approaches to the subject developed by researchers from the region over the last decade and reflects advances made in studies that concern the work and place of women in society. The methods and research findings presented not only contribute to a better understanding of Latin America society, but also have important implications for the study of family, sociology and society in other parts of the world.

● **Family, Household and Gender Relations in Latin America**, edited by Elizabeth Jelin, UNESCO/Kegan Paul Internationnal, 1991, 229 pp., 195 FF.

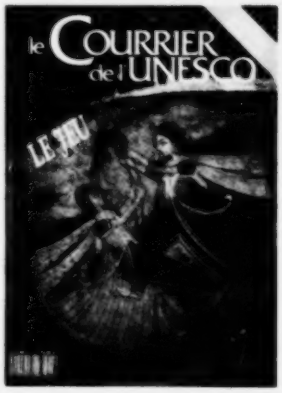
PERIODICALS

PROSPECTS

Intercultural bilingual education in Latin America. While, over the past 15 years, UNESCO's quarterly of education, *Prospects*, has devoted considerable space to the question of elementary education in the mother tongue in multilingual countries, the Open File in this issue (No. 75) focuses solely on Latin America to discuss the language problem, which, universally, is at the forefront of any debate on intercultural education programmes.
Articles sum up two decades of bilingual education in Latin America, analyze the conflicting results which have frequently led to inequity and discrimination, and examine specific experiments in Bolivia, Ecuador, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, and the Andean countries.
In the magazine's "Viewpoints/Controversies" section, devoted to *"developing the cognitive functions" through a "learner-motivating strategy"*, two complementary articles enable the reader to assess and compare what *Prospects* editorializes, *"must still be called - though perhaps not for long - the American and Soviet psychological approaches."*

THE UNESCO COURIER

People at Play : *"All animals play, but we are one of the few species that carries its youthful capacity for play into adult life" ; "like a game, society has rules. The game may, however, become complicated if the players cheat."* Continuing in this vein, the *Unesco Courier* reminds us that, in the games of children and the pastimes of adults, the capacity for play, for following one's fancy with no thought of immediate gain, is central to the human experience.



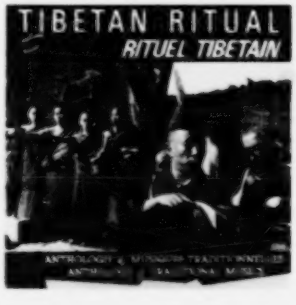
Indeed, biologists and ethologists have demonstrated that play, which is closely bound up with the urge to explore and to satisfy one's curiosity, is a springboard for learning and discovery among human beings and indeed all the higher animals. This issue (May 1991) examines simulation games as aids for decision-makers, modern sports at the mercy of the profit motive, and quotes many philosophers who contend that, if we want to go back to a freer, more worthwhile form of existence, we must rediscover the instinct for play. This month's *Courier* also contains an interview with Sadruddin Aga Khan, former UN High Commissioner for Refugees, and currently Founding President of the Geneva (Switzerland) - based Bellerive Foundation.

RECORDS

TIBETAN RITUAL

Released with the authorisation of the Dalai Lama, this ritual - an invocation of the goddess Yeshiki Mamo - was recorded by monks of the Nyingmapa community ("the elders"), the oldest of the four Tibetan sects, now re-established in India.
The sounds of the instruments used in Tibetan rites evoke associations of rhythms that express the cosmic nature of the world and seem to come from the depth of the universe. The voices produce sounds of a very low pitch, because low sounds are the most disembodied, the nearest to the divine.
The mantras (magic ritual formulas) are accompanied by bells (tilwu) and hourglass drums (daru), and between the sung phrases one hears the horns (kangling) of silver and gold and the long trumpets (radong) of silver and copper whose sounds *"destroy with their thunder the pains of a myriad hells"*. There are also oboes (jaling), cymbals (buchen or komo), and large drums (nga) struck with sticks.

● **Tibetan Ritual**. *Anthology of Traditional Musics, UNESCO/Auvidis, 1991, Cassette 52 FF, Compact 109 FF.*



Publications and periodicals are on sale at the Unesco Bookshop, or by order from Unesco Press, 7 place de Fontenoy, 75700 Paris, and in Member States through national distributors.

ANTON SCHWEIGHOFER : THE "HOWS" & THE "WHYS"

"I *have nothing against monuments,"* says Austrian architect Anton Schweighofer. Yet, first and foremost, he insists, *"Architecture should serve the space where events happen. It should not BE the event."*

Judging from a restrospective exhibition of his work on view at Paris Headquarters from April 3 to 12, something is always happening in Prof. Schweighofer's spaces - in his SOS-Children's Village, Greenfield, in India, his Children's City (Stadt des Kindes), in Vienna, friendly hospitals and apartment complexes, theaters, cultural centers, all sorts of schools, in fact nearly every type of public and private building - including his current project, an aquarium.

The Paris show, sponsored by UNESCO's Educational Architecture Unit and the Austrian Permanent Delegation to UNESCO, is one stopover for the exhibition which by 1992 will have travelled to nearly 40 cities worldwide.

Most critics are at a loss to describe Schweighofer's work. *"Modern, post-modern or simply good ?"* wrote Friedrich Polleross. Most agree, however, that he combines a passion for modern refinement of the purity of his mentor Adolf Loos, along with Gropius and Aalto, with a deep grasp of basic social problems and human emotion.

For Schweighofer, the "whys" of architecture are just as important if not more so than the "hows". He is, in fact, concerned that for most students, and not only those at the Technical University for Design in Vienna where he teaches, there is too much concentration on the "hows" - i.e. technical aspects.

Placing stress, for instance, on entrance halls, junctions, and other meeting places, he may even force *Homo sapiens sapiens* and family to go through their apartment building's foyer rather than directly from garage to nest/cave.

Prof. Schweighofer, 60, has long been associated with UNESCO as a member of the Working Group on Educational and Cultural Spaces of the International Union of Architects (UIA) which, in association with UNESCO, organizes international seminars every two years.

ANTON SCHWEIGHOFER

Yet although he is well known for the schools, from kindergartens to universities he has designed, he, doesn't like to be labeled a specialist.

"Whatever the building, I conceive it in the same spirit," he said, *"according to physical, emotional, and cultural criteria."*

In any case, he concluded, *"Architecture is always educational ... and cultural."*

Betty Werther

PETER USTINOV LIFE BEGINS AT 70

A nother past master in helping build a better world, Sir Peter Ustinov, came into it, via a London nursing home, at 11 o'clock on the morning on April 16, 1921. *"Since my parents had left Leningrad on a Swedish freighter nine months previously,"* he wrote (in his memoires, *Dear Me*), *"I had travelled extensively in embryonic form, spending some time in Holland, while preparing to make my entrance."*

Seven decades later, a galaxy of celebrities from many worlds, moved to tears and testimonials of admiration and endearment in a variety of languages, clustered to celebrate the event with a gala evening at UNESCO Headquarters on April 16, 1991. The majority, many of whom had travelled long distances to attend the event, were obviously close, and devoted, friends - some of the novelist, some of the playwright, others of the actor, of all three at once, or of the UN Goodwill Ambassador who, for over 20 years, has lent his time and talents to humanitarian causes, particularly that of children.

Interspersed with excerpts from Sir Peter's stage and screen career, a glittering array of international stars, including Leslie Caron, Petula Clark, Line Renaud, Larry Adler, Tony Curtis, Uta Lemper, Ivry Gitlis, German actors Heinz Rühmann and Klaus Maria Brandauer, and Dino Kartsonakis succeeded each other through a three-hour programme skillfully MCed by Leon Davico. Proceeds went to the European Council for the Coordination of Cancer Research.

MONTSERRAT CABALLE AND FRIEND
(Photo UNESCO/Inez Forbes)

There were especially touching tributes from Sir Yehudi Menuhin, and from Barbara Hendricks and Montserrat Caballe who then joined their great voices in Puccini's "Cat's Song". Former German chancellor, Helmut Schmidt, appeared on a video to offer his best wishes and play "Happy Birthday" on the piano.

Other video greetings came from Robert Mitchum, Gregory Peck and Kirk Douglas, along with messages from Henry Kissinger and Arthur Miller.

As the first of several finales, former British Prime Minister, Sir Edward Heath, read a telegram of "heartfelt congratulations" for Sir Peter from "Charles and Diana", then sat down at the piano to play a rousing "He's a Jolly Good Fellow" as the standing audience joined in.

At the end of the memorable evening, the Knight was still young enough to beam, bow and invite everyone back to celebrate his 71st.

B.W.

● ***Freedom of the press*** *is a constituent of democracy and development"* declared Director-General, Federico Mayor on April 20, International Day of the Press. In 1990 some 40 journalists were killed and another 200 imprisoned or held hostage. *"Let each of us demand or facilitate their release... and the lifting of curbs on the press,"* he added. *"We shall then have a guarantee of balance in the future."*

● **The American Society of Newspaper Editors** has announced that it no longer opposes United States membership to UNESCO. Following its annual convention in April, the Society applauded *"the recent progress at UNESCO"* on the question of press freedom and said it believed that *"further progress on this essential issue can best be accomplished from within the Organization."*

A THIRST FOR READING: BUT A LACK OF FACILITIES. A VILLAGE LIBRARY IN EGYPT. (Photo UNESCO/P MORIN)

FORGING LINKS: THE EXCHANGE OF KNOWLEDGE

"Specialized" information is no longer the privileged domain of the scientist: it is impossible, today, to undertake research, conceive projects, or make decisions without rapid access to reliable and selective information which alone can provide answers to questions as varied as they are precise (see below). However tapping into the wealth of information housed in libraries, archives, documentation centres and, above all, data banks, requires considerable human, technical and financial resources. As in many other domains, these resources are lacking precisely where they are most needed: in the developing countries.

Helping to fill this gap is the 'raison d'être' of UNESCO's General Information Programme (PGI). It's efforts are concentrated on library development (p.10), archives, especially for former colonies wishing to reconstitute their past, (p.14), regional data banks (p.15-16) and even software for dealing with documents that has proved a hit internationally.

ALL ARTICLES ARE FREE OF COPYRIGHT RESTRICTIONS. SEE P. 2

Their titles were "Le Journal des savants" and "The Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society". Established in the 17th century, the one in Paris, the other in London, they were the earliest ancestors of the scientific journal.

Their progeny was at first quite meagre : roughly a dozen titles in the middle of the 18th century rising to a thousand some hundred years later. The explosion came with the dazzling expansion of science and technology : the current number of scientific journals is put at around 100,000.

"Specialist" information, which is mainly scientific and increasingly technological, is vital not only for researchers, engineers and technical experts in every subject but also for "decision-makers" whether businessmen, politicians, lawyers, architects, agronomists, doctors or indeed military leaders - the list is endless. Without information of this sort they are condemned to isolation and, to a varying degree, powerlessness. With it and providing that it is reliable and rapidly available, they can solve the problems which arise in their day-to-day work. Specialist information is the nerve of modern societies, a resource just like energy, so important that they are now referred to as "information societies".

The volume of information is increasing exponentially, which is to say that it doubles every ten to fifteen years. We eventually arrive at figures so astronomical that we are unable to come to terms with them. The total volume of scientific and technological information available today is measured in tens of billions of characters.

This explosion in the quantity of information is accompanied by a revolution in its quality. Libraries, archives and documentation centres - the world of Gutenberg - admittedly remain just as important and still constitute the main means of access to specialist knowledge in many countries. But in the age of information technology and satellites the management, storage and distribution of knowledge depends increasingly on the most sophisticated types of equipment. Data banks are a case in point : five thousand million references now immediately available, each containing millions of items of structured information and capable of being "interrogated" instantly by remote access. They were created only at the end of the 1970s but already store practically all the specialist information produced worldwide.

Clearly, considerable resources are needed upstream in order to obtain access to all of these stores of know-how : skills, equipment, communication infrastructure, payment for services ; and almost as many resources downstream in order to communicate one's own discoveries. As in so many other areas, the resources are distributed very unevenly : the United States, for example, possesses more than half of the world's data banks and the developed countries nearly nine tenths.

UNESCO's General Information Programme (PGI) was accordingly set up in 1976 to make specialist information accessible to all those in need of it, especially where it is most lacking - in the Third World. First of all, specialists and resources are needed to collect and process this information and to distribute it to users. But it is equally essential that specialist information is able to circulate effectively which means not only that specialist training and equipment specifications must be compatible but also that a sort of universal "language" must be established. That is why action takes three forms : conceptual, chiefly concerning standards and national policies for information ; technical ; and financial, although in the latter case institutions other than UNESCO are assuming an increasing degree of responsibility.

Imagine that you are interrogating a data bank to obtain a book reference. Nothing will appear on your computer screen unless your system and the bank's system have been designed to communicate. This is the first level at which technical coordination is required. But use cannot be made of the text unless its structure conforms to precise rules, in the absence of which you may mix up the name of the author or the publisher, invert the name and first name, mistake the price for the number of pages, etc. "Standards" are therefore essential, that is to say, a language of communication with its own grammar, syntax and vocabulary : otherwise the world of specialist information would be locked in a Tower of Babel.

LIKE THE TASK OF SISYPHUS

But standards do not spring up overnight: it takes at least five years to establish them and the job is tricky, consensus being the rule. It's also expensive : nearly $100,000 for UNESCO alone, as a number of experts must be brought together several times. Finally, like the task of Sisyphus, the process is never-ending - an "international standard" must be regularly updated, practically every ten years. Moreover the economic, financial and even political interests involved can be enormous. UNESCO can usefully offer its good offices because of its authority, its recognized competence and, above all, because it is not linked to any particular interest, either public or private. For example, the Chinese turned to UNESCO in the middle of the 1970s when they wanted to establish an international standard, as the rules which the United States Library of Congress had created for the transcription of Chinese into Latin characters were not acceptable to them. Often, however, it is the users of a newly-emerging precisely defined sector of specialist information who ask for UNESCO's help in creating a new common language.

At the same time requests flood in for appropriate guidelines to carry out the highly varied activities of libraries, documentation centres and archives. In combination these two types of requests are responsible for the production and very wide distribution of over five hundred "guidelines" which a PGI official describes as "guides for the application of standardized know-how". Indeed, many of them are becoming international standards. Their subject-matter ranges from the best way of establishing a monolingual thesaurus to the prevention of disasters in libraries and archives, from the training of librarians and documentalists at intermediate level to the modernization of archive collections. Currently being worked out is a guideline on the rules for designing a library while another, which must be developed at all costs, concerns the standards to be observed in order to prevent paper self-destructing because of the acids which it contains, a process which affects everything published since the end of the last century.

The General Information Programme is coordinated by an intergovernmental council composed of 30 Member States, half of which are renewed at each General Conference, and which elects a Bureau that meets once a year.

The Programme was born in 1976 from the fusion of UNISIST and support activities to Member States covering libraries, documentation centres and archives. UNISIST was an international programme created on the initiative of the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU), dealing with scientific and technical information, most notably through the elaboration of "norms", rules, methods, principles and techniques.

PGI also works hand in hand with the three major NGO's involved in this domain, i.e. the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA), the International Council on Archives (ICA) and the International Federation of Information and Documentation (FID), as well as those NGO's specialized in audio-visual archives.

For the current biennium, PGI's budget amounts to a little more than $8m from UNESCO's coffers, and another $6.4m contributed by external sources - mainly the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) - to finance its operational projects.

CONSPICUOUS BY THEIR ABSENCE

PGI also plays a conceptual role in the establishment of national policies for specialist information. Such policies exist, officially or otherwise, demanding, or less so, even in the industrialized countries which boast the most liberal doctrines and even if government action is limited there to setting the market rules and protecting the "national interest". But it is in the countries of the Third World that they are most conspicuous by their absence. A strategy must therefore be established on the basis of the main thrust and methods of development in each country, meeting local needs as effectively as possible by specifying integrated activities : training, infrastructure, equipment, the application of standards, etc. for the three types of facility providing specialist information : libraries, documentation centres and archives. Here too, PGI gives countries the benefit of its impartiality and competence, for the developing nations know that the expert guidance it provides will be independent of the funding sources or quite simply of commercial pressure. And, *mutatis mutandis*, PGI is working with the same aims and using the same methods to ensure that the countries of the South not only have control of access to specialist information and its management in national terms but can also exchange such information among themselves and distribute their own output to the countries of the North.

In addition, PGI often carries out projects from the design stage to full operation, even securing their external funding. Leaving aside the very special and impressive example of the Library of Alexandria, the Programme is helping, for example, to reorganize the state archives of Burkina Faso, to develop the scientific and technological information network in Nepal and to create a bibliographical data-base in Nicaragua. This "practical work" which is demanding in budgetary terms is nonetheless essential if PGI is to push forward with both aspects of its activities, i.e. design and execution, for the relevance of the former is linked to the effectiveness of the latter.

René LEFORT

THE MAIN BRAIN BEHIND THE MAINFRAME

Fortunately, Nathalie Dusolier, head of a leading French and European scientific and technological data "factory", "loves to learn".

In her elegant modern office overlooking the French city of Nancy in historic Lorraine, Nathalie Dusolier, soft-spoken and eminently "user-friendly", smoothes her short blond hair and sits back, seemingly as comfortable in her black leather armchair, as she is in the impressive role of Director-General of France's Institut d'Information Scientifique et Technique (INIST).

Radiating charm and self-confident, in her case the unmistakable hallmark of competence, Nathalie Dusolier reigns over a highly skilled staff of 410 in what leading architect Jean Nouvel designed as a "knowledge factory" - metals, mainly corrugated tin and stainless steel, highlighted with red, against concrete - a giant meccano set.

At the heart of the structure, a complex within a "science park" on the Nancy-Brabois plateau, an IBM 4381 mainframe manages INIST's databases, FRANCIS and PASCAL (over 10 million references online). Feeding their gluttonous appetite, and contributing to the production of quality information products, are, *inter alia*, 27,400 international scientific periodicals, 42,000 congress reports, 50,000 doctoral dissertations and 32,000 research reports stacked on 34 km of shelves.

"I love to learn," explains Ms Dusolier.

A good example of the right person, doing the right thing at the right place, at the right time, her career, in fact, neatly parallels the genesis and development of the information age.

Born in Nice on the French Riviera where her parents settled after migrating from Russia at the time of the Revolution, she later studied microbiology at the Institut Pasteur in Paris where she also earned a Doctor of Pharmacy degree, and picked up managerial skills at the Institut d'Administration des Entreprises.

"My aim," she said, *"was to join a pharmaceutical company."* Immobilized, in 1960, by an automobile accident for over a year, she was, however, forced to readjust her sights. While convalescing, Ms Dusolier placed an ad for a "sedentary job", listing her qualifications and proficiency not only in French, but also in English, German and Russian. The French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) responded immediately, hiring her to take charge of indexing and publication of the Centre's bio-medical research.

Since then, Nathalie Dusolier has become France's leading expert for information processing and dissemination, and a valued specialist on the world scene, contributing her expertise to the international community at the Dag Hammarskjöld

Library at U.N. Headquarters and the U.N. library in Geneva.

For over 20 years she has, notably, collaborated with UNESCO, playing a key role in setting up intergovernmental programmes for the flow of scientific and technological information, starting with UNISIST in 1971-72, then following through in 1976 with PGI of which she is currently a Bureau member.

"Before World War II," she said, *"information was generated and used locally. It was only after the War that research started to become international, beginning when the International Council for Scientific Unions (ICSU) began preparing and publishing chemical and physical abstracts for its members worldwide. This led to the decisive step - the creation of UNISIST."*

"The 1960s and 70s were the big revolutionary transition years," she said. *"From card catalogue through perforated cards, to telematics and automation, it went very fast. Sometimes we took courses, but we mainly played it by ear, inventing as we went along. One thing, though,"* she added, *"my philosophy is very clear. Don't automate manual circuits! If you do, all you get is an automated manual circuit. What must be done, is to rethink the whole process."*

One of Ms Dusolier's major contributions has been in helping set up norms and standards for information handling. *"It's very simple,"* she says. *"If you're alone in an office, you work out your own filing system. But when you want to share information with the office across the hall, you must set up rules. You may decide, for instance, to classify politics on red cards, economy on green, and so on. Informatics, on the other hand, involves putting things in different sized boxes, like rectangles for authors, squares for subjects, etc."*

FIVE GRANDCHILDREN LATER

When her husband died at age 42, she raised their three children alone, *"although,"* she says, *"they insist they raised themselves."* Now five grandchildren later, Nathalie Dusolier, at 62, is in the process of enlarging her house in Vallauris. *"Not too far from the coast,"* she says, *"I love the sea. INIST is a big part of my life, but it's not the whole picture."*

Sharing her expertise, she travels widely, most recently to the USSR where she visited the All-Union Institute of Scientific and Technical Information (VINITI).

In the process of bringing the world on-line, she is not always optimistic. *"Asia is waking up fast,"* she says, *"India has made spectacular strides, and more and more data processing is being sub-contracted to countries like the Philippines. Latin America has skilled specialists, so it's only a matter of degree - and money.*

"The big question mark" she added, *"is Africa where there is simply no money, very little hard - or soft - ware, and a dearth of specialists. The Eastern European countries pose another problem. They have the knowledge, and generally the techniques, but lack organizational skills. It may be a while before they learn there's not much point in using a Rolls Royce to transport a sheet of paper."*

Betty WERTHER

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SCHOOL LIBRARIES IN PARADISE :

The UNESCO School Libraries in Oceania Project.

In 1989 after traveling by small plane, riding over rough roads in the back of a truck, and hiking up a jungle trail, the author and another project consultant, Dr. Barbara Poston-Anderson, arrived at a rural school on the remote island of Malekula in Vanuatu to conduct a training session for teachers on putting together and using school libraries and developing inexpensive, but effective educational resources.

The school children were so excited, that many climbed onto the roof of a classroom to get a better look, causing the roof to collapse much to the horror of the consultants and the laughter of staff and students. Fortunately, the students rebuilt the roof within an hour and decided on-the-spot to set up a small library.

The Vanuatu workshop was part of a much wider project to improve library services for the 4.5 million inhabitants of 11 island states scattered across 30 million sq. km. of ocean in the Southwest Pacific.

The majority of Pacific Islanders still live in rural areas. This is the case for about 90% of Soloman Islanders and over 60% of the population in comparatively urbanized Fiji. Since most library services are found in urban areas, the vast majority of islanders have no access to them. Moreover, very few children complete primary school and only a minority attend secondary schools where most school libraries can be found. So most island children will never have the opportunity to use one. There are also very few trained librarians.

The South Pacific School Library Development Project was launched by UNESCO in 1978. Consultant Dr. Lawrence McGrath travelled the region in 1980 and 1982 to investigate the state of school libraries there and to look at ways of improving the situation. Dr. McGrath pointed out the general lack of libraries, especially in primary schools, the shortage of books in the region, the lack of trained staff and the general unawareness of teachers and school administrators with regard to the use of a range of educational resources and libraries in teaching and learning situations. This latter observation led to the recommendation that courses be developed to introduce teachers to the value of educational resources and to the effective use of these resources in learning.

This need was also highlighted at a workshop for teachers and teacher librarians in Suva, Fiji in October 1981. Workshop participants recommended that *"as first priority... assistance be provided through the UNESCO School Library Development Project in the South Pacific for the further provision of short courses for all teachers..."*

UNESCO accepted this recommendation and a team of Australian library educators lead by Margaret Trask prepared two courses for training teachers in the use of libraries, and for training school librarians. The courses, designed for both traditional classrooms and distance education, were published by UNESCO in 1989.

A regional meeting of librarians and educators from the Pacific region was held in Suva, Fiji from in November 1983. The purpose of this UNESCO-funded meeting was to examine the course material to see if it met the needs of the region. Given the green light, it was then introduced into teacher education programmes across the South West Pacific.

A VARIETY OF TECHNIQUES

In order to ensure that each country had qualified people to teach the course, UNESCO also sponsored a workshop in Sydney, Australia in July-August, 1985 for 16 librarians and teacher educators from 10 Pacific nations. Participants were given detailed notes on teaching specific parts of the course, were able to experiment with a variety of techniques and develop educational resources. Training programmes were also conducted for educators and librarians in Western Samoa in 1986 and in Vanuatu in 1989 and 1990 with a further course scheduled in 1991. The Vanuatu courses emphasized easily accessible and inexpensive resources such as puppets, drama and movement, and book reports and discussions by teachers, as well as in-service training for librarians.

In the 13 years since its launch, the UNESCO Project has made a solid contribution to the improvement of school library services in the Oceania region. A competent and enthusiastic group of people has been trained, who now, in turn, are training others in this crucial aspect of children's education. Training courses prepared under the programme have proved so successful that UNESCO's PGI team has used them as a model in other, similar projects around the world.

With the increasing awareness of the importance of introducing children to a wide range of educational resources and of making these resources and information more accessible, it is vital that school library services become a central aspect of education. They are finally becoming a reality in primary and secondary schools across the South Pacific.

Joe HALLEIN,
Monash University College,
Victoria, Australia.

THE CDS/ISIS SUCCESS STORY

Up-to-the-minute software

International organizations churn out masses of documents. In order to sift its way through them, UNESCO has designed a software programme, CDS/ISIS, which has become a hit even outside its precincts.

"I should like a list of authors of journals, newsletters, magazines and other publications - excluding books - dealing with women and development in Africa. And I'm only interested in material published prior to 1975 in Spanish by publishers in Venezuela."

The documentalist on the receiving end of this request - an imaginary one, of course - can either cast his/her eyes to heaven in despair at the gigantic scale of the task, or deliver the answer within a few seconds. The former reaction will be prompted by the daunting prospect of wading through all publications meeting some of the criteria or - a scarcely less laborious task - working through the file cards compiled for each publication. In the second case, a computer within reach of the documentalist will display the list of requested authors on its screen almost instantaneously in response to an input of 'key words' from the request (non-book publications, development, women, etc.), provided, of course, that the documentation centre is computerized with a programme ('software') designed for that kind of use.

FITS THE BILL

CDS/ISIS fits the bill perfectly. It corresponds to the official if somewhat enigmatic definition of *"non-numerical data base management software"*. Translated into everyday language, CDS/ISIS is a means of compiling information (data) chiefly in textual form, unlike the type of software that is more partial to numbers.

In a library, a documentation or archives centre, the CDS/ISIS product is used to compile a "record" for each work, containing information ranging from the title to a summary of content and based on previously selected key words. These records can then be accessed for purposes of selective research, as in the above example.

Quantity is not an obstacle : CDS/ISIS can manage up to 16 million records containing up to 8,000 characters each, provided that the computer on which it is installed is sufficiently powerful. At the same time, a business executive with a particularly well-stocked address book can use CDS/ISIS to keep track of a wide range of acquaintances and have fun compiling a list of, for example, all those whose first name begins with M and whose telephone number includes the figure 45 ...

The history of CDS/ISIS is bound up with its name and with the career of the man who was its sole progenitor. When Giampaolo Del Bigio, an electrical engineer of Italian nationality, left the International Atomic Energy Agency in 1973 to join UNESCO, he brought with him the know-how he had acquired through the automated processing of the Agency's documentation. On arrival, he discovered the CDS (Computerized Documentation System) software that UNESCO had developed for the same purpose.

But the Organization decided two years later to replace its central computer by a model identical to that on which the International Labour Organization had developed a documentary management software system dubbed ISIS (Integrated Set of Information Services). As strength lies in unity, CDS/ISIS was born in 1976.

Probably because the market for this type of product is relatively limited, CDS/ISIS has no competitor. The grapevine does the rest - requests have been streaming in. Since 1977, UNESCO has been supplying software to Member States for the large computers - 130 to date - installed in their documentary institutions.

Mutatis mutandis, the production and distribution of CDS/ISIS followed the same pattern after micro-computers came on the market in the early 1980s. UNESCO's Regional Offices were keen to manage their documents on site. A micro version of the software was therefore launched in 1984 to meet the Organization's internal needs. Outside users, too, soon began to show an interest. In the meantime, over 10,000 CDS/ISIS software programmes have been distributed to over 130 countries at a rate that now exceeds 2,000 copies a year. The third version, for use in micro-computers forming part of a network, will be launched shortly. CDS/ISIS is available not only in English, Spanish and French but also in Thai, Polish and Arabic.

USER TRAINING

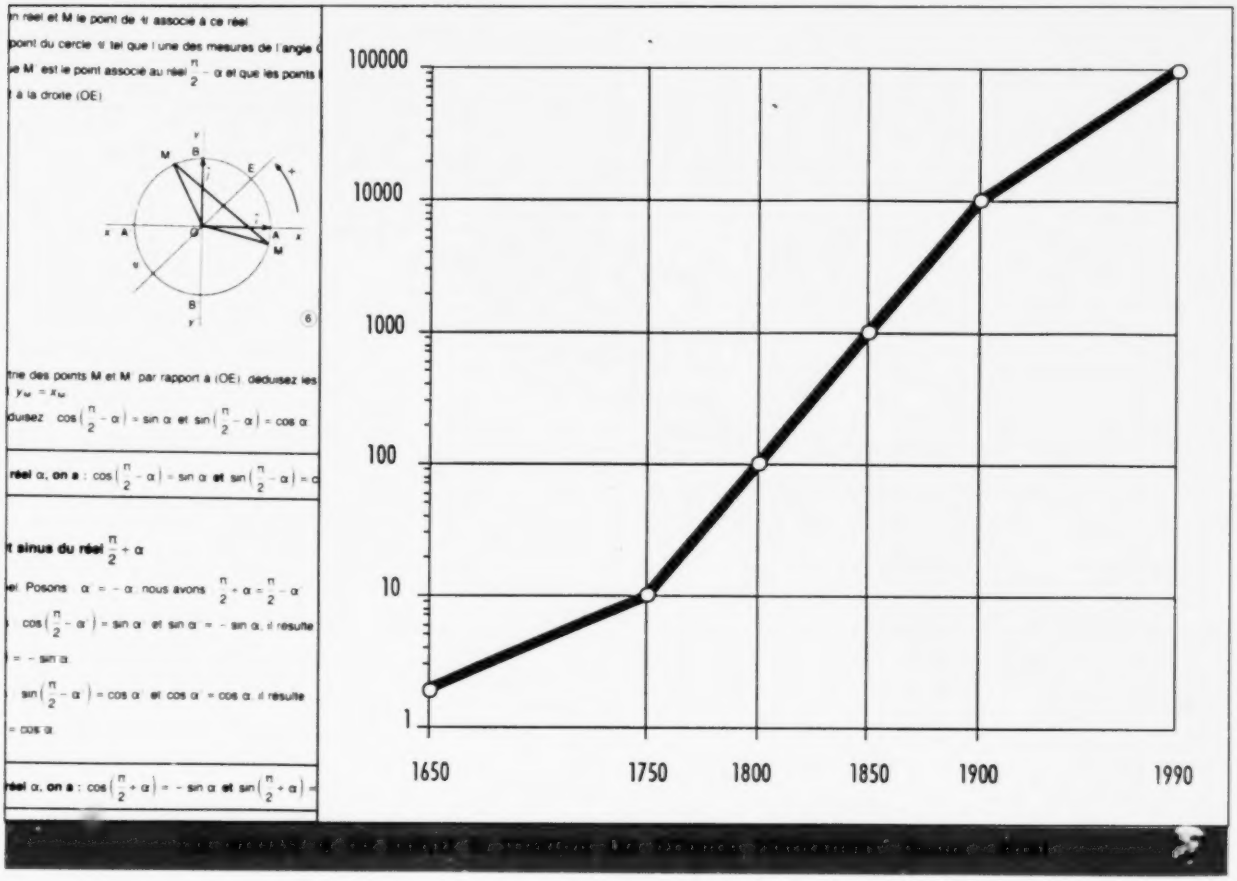
Eighty per cent of users are libraries and documentation centres, a third of these being located in the industrialized countries of Europe and North America, a third in Latin America, a fifth in Asia, the rest in Africa and the Arab States. Demand is so brisk that a network of 80 voluntary distributors has had to be set up, each of them operating at the regional or national level, or as supplier to its partners, in the framework of its own data exchange network. As direct user training now far exceeds the limited capabilities of the unit in charge of CDS/ISIS in Paris, the latter confines itself to the training of teacher instructors, for whom two or three courses are organized each year.

Mr Raymond Gimilio, who is fond of recalling that he was the first to work with the software outside UNESCO, is so appreciative that he is the founder and President of the French Association of Users of CDS/ISIS. In his view, there are several simple reasons for the success of UNESCO's homemade product : *"It is a software designed and regularly updated by documentation professionals ; it is the only one to take account of international standards, which makes data exchange that much easier."* And, he adds in an undertone, *"it's free ..."*.

René Lefort

THE BOOM IN SPECIALIZED INFORMATION

The scientific and technical revolution has today made access to information an absolute necessity for the accomplishment of even the most elementary daily tasks. To this end, the development of data banks has opened up a whole new world.



EXPONENTIAL GROWTH

The statisticians have given up trying to measure, with any degree of accuracy, the growth in the volume of available scientific and technical information, or the revenue generated by the specialized information industry. The difference in their estimations for any given item can vary from one to four according to the sources used.

A recent OECD study aimed at shedding some light on this domain came to the following conclusions: "*this once minor science has today become a world of sciences*"; the quantitative growth of scientific and technical information, far from slowing down, is accelerating exponentially, i.e. its volume is swelling by about 10% annually, due mainly to the multiplication of disciplines, their increasingly marked specialization and interdisciplinarity; this growth has far outstripped the capacity of information services to deal with it and thus respond to the potential demand.

Any picture of this situation is therefore built upon incomplete information, and can only really provide an indication of the reality. Amongst the information available, the increase in the number of titles of scientific and technical publications appearing regularly, provides a good guide.

Towards the middle of the 18th Century, there were about 10 such titles. This had grown to 100 by the start of the following century, 1,000 by 1850 and 10,000 just 100 years ago. Today, there are more than 100,000, although, even in this domain, the estimations vary according the source.

(graphics: A. Darmon)

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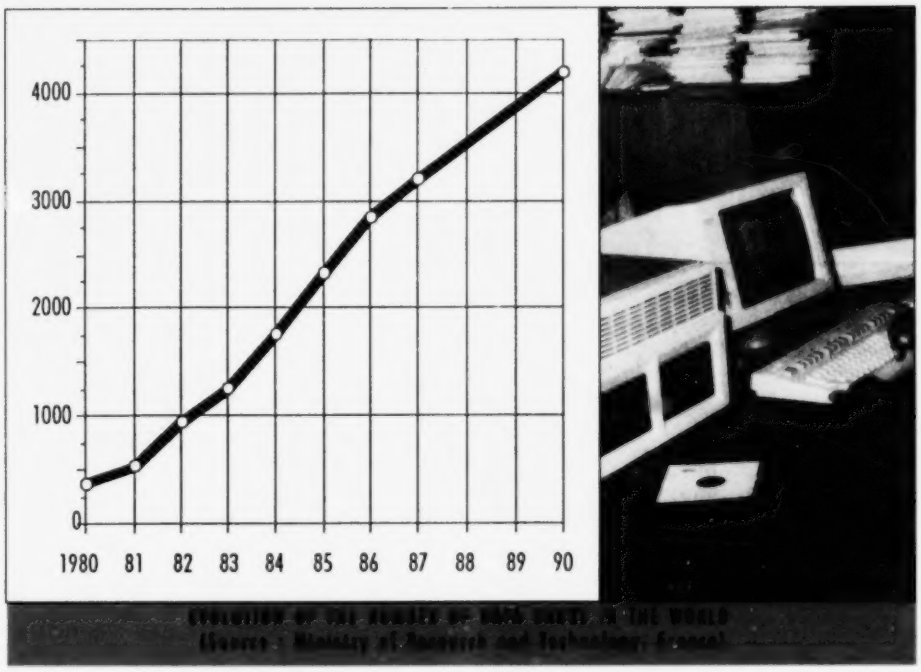


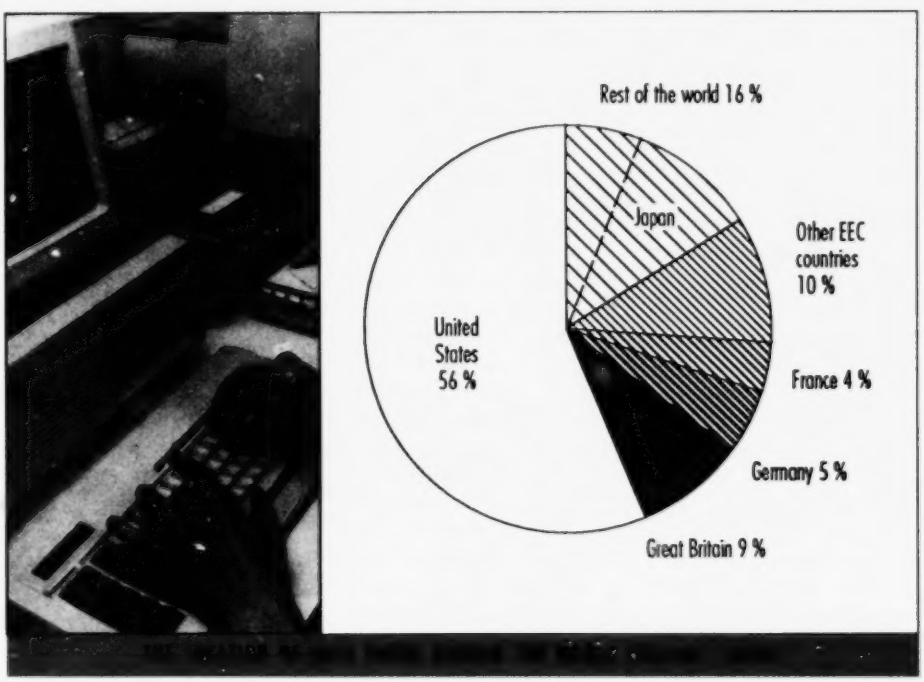
THE DATA BANK EXPLOSION

Over the last 10 years, their number has increased tenfold. Why? Because they simultaneously offer two advantages: they provide for storage of millions of references, and, at the same time, are capable of being consulted at a distance, replying almost instantaneously. Data banks are the offspring of computers and telecommunications.

(Graphics : A. Darmon)
(Photo : UNESCO/Inez Forbes).

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION

When it comes to data banks, the Third World is getting the short end of the stick. Since it is estimated that Japan possesses about 10% of the world total, it is considered likely that developing countries account for under six percent, a situation which vividly illustrates the North-South gap in the domain of scientific and technological information.



(Graphics : A. Darmon.
Photo : UNESCO/D. Roger).

TREES, FOREST AND ARCHIVES

Former colonies plead the return of their documented past, but what's happening with their present ?

For the uninitiated, the subject of archives in the Developing World immediately conjures up the thorny issue of colonial archives. Some cases, particularly the dispute between Algeria and France, charged with impassioned historical overtones, have brought the issue to centre stage. Those Governments involved feel their history has been amputated, with all or a good part of their archives having been transferred to the former colonial power at the time of independence. Demands for their return raise more than one difficult question, such as the custodians' concern over the conservation of the documents once returned to a country lacking the financial resources to conserve them.

This situation could also result from war or a massive exodus leading to a redefining of borders. For example, the archives of British India are stocked in New Delhi and not in Pakistan or Bangladesh. In some cases the question of sharing archive documents is insoluble : where, for instance, should the archives of French Equatorial Africa, currently stocked in Brazzaville, go ? Or those of the former Austro-Hungarian empire ?

In reality, these bilateral disputes are few. Moreover microfilm now offers a solution. It is now possible to reproduce archives and make copies available to all parties concerned. But the question of where the originals go remains. Microfilm is also extremely expensive, and financial constraints hinder their dissemination on a large scale. Nonetheless it does point to solutions for those unresolved conflicts.

A MOUNTAIN OF PROBLEMS

This is why several specialists are concerned that too much attention is being paid to a problem they consider relatively minor in comparison to the mountain of other difficulties facing archives in developing countries.

In the majority of cases, the archives were not transferred when empires began to break up - the shifting of tons of documents is far from easy. This was easier in protectorates, where documents relating to local administration remained where they were, while those concerning the central body stayed in the capital. *"But it would be a collosal error to believe that documents that were not transferred are not in danger,"* warns Executive Director of the International Council on Archives (CIA), Charles Kecskeméti (France). He believes this is the tree that hides the woods. *"There are countries that think of nothing else, and yet their own documents*

are rotting," says another UNESCO specialist, adding *"where are the archives relating to health or diplomacy in the last thirty years in any given African country ?"* Even in Europe, the notion of national archives is relatively recent. It only dates back to the 19th century with the formation of nation-states.

This process was an outcome of the French Revolution. Archives existed during the monarchy, but they belonged to their originator. Hence they were distributed between the judiciary, the royal court, the church and each ministry. With the breakdown of the system, the fall of the monarchy and the institutions, the confiscation of religious assets, something had to be done with masses of documents suddenly rendered obsolete. This marked the birth of national archives.

In the early stages, the archives were rudely shaken up by a series of revolutions, the formation of empires and war, which, in turn led to an increase in the production of documents. Technology created further upheavals, at least four consecutive times in less than a century, with the invention of the type-writer, carbon paper, photocopy and computers, and finally microfilm.

CALCULATED DESTRUCTION

These developments simultaneously facilitated and complicated the work of archivists : a document can now be duplicated infinitely and arranged in a multitude of dossiers but never before has the management of masses of archive material been so dependent on selection and calculated destruction, since only a small fraction has historical interest.

Thus the Developing World finds itself thrust into yet another new situation, that demands investment in equipment, personnel and training.

The greatest danger is that of documents being "cut off" from the administrative and production process. Archives are often considered as a deposit of valuable, ancient documents, museums of a nation's memory suddenly transformed into tombs of active thought. But if they are not constantly fed with new documents, administrative decisions become terribly complicated. *"Archivists like the double symbol of Janus,"* underlines Mr. Kecskeméti. Documentation must remain in *"intimate correlation with research, otherwise one ends up with kilometres of documents for nothing". Documents need to be accessible, used by "decision makers", whence the importance of new techniques (microfilm, optical discs) that preserve the original.*

However, its cultural and scientific importance aside, in purely financial terms, the setting up of a system of archives becomes profitable in ten or fifteen years, says the CIA director. In its absence, governments may be obliged to undertake the same study several times and administrations to devote an enormous amount of space to their documents. ■

PASSING THE WORD AROUND

Three international networks keep scientists, planners and decisions makers informed and play a vital role in development.

APINMAP

What is the chemical composition and medicinal properties of *Pinus longifolia*? When used as a medecine, which illnesses can it treat and how should it be prepared and administered? Which scientists and research institutions are experimenting with it, and exploring further pharmaceutical or industrial uses for this plant? And where can it be found?

Providing answers to these questions, or indicating where the answers may be found, is the task undertaken by the Asian Pacific Network on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (APINMAP). The network was set up in 1987 with financial and technical support from UNESCO, which, over the past four years has contributed some $400,000 to its establishment. APINMAP now boasts 13 member countries including: Australia, China, India, Indonesia, the Republic of Korea, Nepal, Malaysia, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam .

It's main aim is to assist its member states to improve their capability to collect, process, disseminate, and use research information and data on medicinal and aromatic plants. Given the wealth of botanical resources in this mostly tropical zone, a huge percentage of which is still largely unknown, and that the quest for new, low-cost medecines remains a major concern in human health care, the network also serves as an agent for sustainable development in the region. Thus, information is collected in each of the member countries by national nodes and transmitted to a Network Centre based at Los Banos in the Philippines, which is responsible for the consolidation and redistribution of the data. The Network's Secretariat is based in Bangkok.

Since its launch, APINMAP has grown to a point where it now provides such services as: bibliographic databases prepared by each National Node on medicinal and aromatic plants produced in each of the participating countries; referral databases of information sources, research institutions and experts; access to international databases; factual/numerical databases for decision makers, researchers, scientists, health care planners and potential entrepreneurs. Some national nodes are also developing information packages on specialized topics for different target groups, including rural communities and health authorities.

PANGIS

The exploitation of a country's mineral and energy resources depends first and foremost on the knowledge it has of these resources, and consequently, on an inventory of the scientific studies carried out in this field. The Pan-African Network for a Geological Information System, explains project co-ordinator, Claude Bidet (France) was created in 1986 to fill this gap.

The Network, which was established by the International Centre for Training and Exchanges in the Geosciences (CIFEG) with support from UNESCO, today counts 14 member states including: Algeria, Chad, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Madagascar, Morocco, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Tunisia, Uganda, Zaire and Zimbabwe. Another eight countries have asked to become members of the network which, says Bidet, *"hopes eventually to cover the whole continent". "Geological structures,"* he adds *"don't respect national borders, thus the exploitation of resources requires co-operation between states."*

Unfortunately, establishing the necessary documentary bases in each country is

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an expensive undertaking, running to about $70,000, and the network's financial resources are limited.

UNESCO has contributed substantially to the programme, providing up to $35,000 for each centre's installation including computer equipment, training programmes for heads of projects and a bibliography covering the Earth sciences in each country. Negotiations are also underway with a number of European funding sources for more financial support. PANGIS presently works at two levels, with each national node being linked to specialized information services such as universities, mining companies and institutes to form a national network, and CIFEG in France, which is the overall co-ordinator and core link.

Through CIFEG the network is also connected to geological services in the U.S, Canada, Great Britain, Belgium and France. *"A number of European countries, being former colonial powers, hold a vast amount of information and documentation which is invaluable to African nations,"* Bidet explains. *"The connections with these countries thus allow the network to tap into this data and allow a three-way exchange from North to South, South to North and South to South. It's a truly international network, that has a vital role to play in Africa's development."*

INTERNET

In a world that is producing more and more garbage and hazardous waste, knowing what to do with it becomes valuable information that should be studied and shared as widely as possible.

The Scientific and Technical Information Network (INTERNET) is aiming to do just that. It also gathers and disseminates information on urban drainage, flood management, seismic risks, the management of small and medium sized enterprises, macro-economic management and technology transfer.

Established in 1987 on the initiative of UNESCO's General Information Programme (PGI), and with financial support from the UNDP, INTERNET today counts 10 participating countries including : Albania, Austria, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Italy, Malta, Poland, Turkey and Yugoslavia. To date, it has managed to link up 67 universities and research institutions in its member states.

There are two main goals, according to Pal Vasarhelyi, Project Secretary in Hungary. The first is problem solving through improved information for research scientists and decision makers, while the second is the implementation of a common methodology to act as a support for the network's information services and facilitate regional access to information. *"After all,"* says Vasarhelyi, *"it's not sufficient just to establish data bases - they must be used."*

To its credit, particularly in the light of the social and political upheavals that have occured in Eastern Europe over the past two years, INTERNET is well on target towards meeting these goals.

The future challenge will be to institutionalize the network in order to bring the promising experimental results to the fully operational stage and make the specialized information services which have been initiated, widely available.

Sue WILLIAMS

TO FIND OUT MORE...

DEVELOPING PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEMS AND SERVICES: by H.C Campbell presents a guide to the organization of national and regional public library systems as part of overall national information service planning. UNESCO, 1983, 186p.

FUNCTION AND ORGANIZATION OF A NATIONAL DOCUMENTATION CENTRE IN A DEVELOPING COUNTRY: describes possible ways of setting up and developing a national documentation centre. UNESCO, 1985, 218p.

GUIDE TO CD-ROM: prepared by Anneli Heimburger, this document comprises a thorough review of CD-ROM technology, hardware, software and applications in library and information work. UNESCO, 1988.

STUDY ON MASS CONSERVATION TECHNIQUES FOR TREATMENT OF LIBRARY ARCHIVES AND MATERIAL: carried out under the Records and Archives Management Programme (RAMP), this study examines step by step the different kinds of damage occurring on library materials and their causes, the conditions in which the libraries are found and methods of restoration. UNESCO, 1989.

ARCHIVES AND RECORDS MANAGEMENT FOR DECISION MAKERS: a RAMP study by Peter C. Mazikana, highlights those aspects of the archival field that decision makers should be aware of. UNESCO, 1990.

GUIDELINES ON PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION POLICIES IN THE ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES HERITAGE: prepared by Patricia Chapman, this study tackles the problem of conservation, made critical today by the extreme vulnerability of the paper used in archival documents and library books, and explains the necessity of establishing and applying rational conservation and preservation policies. UNESCO, 1990.

A GUIDE TO THE INTERPRETATION AND USE OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARD BIBLIOGRAPHIC DESCRIPTIONS (ISBD): prepared by Anthony G. Curwen, this work covers the origins, purpose and uses of ISBDs and contains numerous examples illustrating ISBD usage which illustrate a wide range of bibliographic rules. A useful reference work, source of ideas, debate and teaching material. UNESCO, 1990.

THE LIFE AND FATE OF THE ANCIENT LIBRARY OF ALEXANDRIA : by Mostafa El-Abbadi, this 250-page, illustrated book, tells the fascinating story of the greatest library of the ancient world. UNESCO/UNDP, 1990.

HANDBOOK FOR INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND SERVICES : by Prof. Pauline Atherton. Brings together in a simple and concise fashion all aspects of information systems and services. UNESCO, 1977.

CDS/ISIS

The software package selected by librarians, documentalists and archivists in more than 130 countries

CDS/ISIS is a software package conceived and developed by UNESCO for managing documentary data bases.

For further information contact:
General Information Programme,
UNESCO,
7 Place de Fontenoy,
75700 PARIS

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UNESCO SENT AN ENGINEERING TEAM TO MALTA at the end of March to design an air conditioning system to protect the underground neolithic paintings of the Hal-Saflieni Hypogeum (3000-4000 B.C). The World Heritage site is threatened by algae and lichen growing in the damp atmosphere of the labyrinth, and hot Mediterranean air blowing into the cooler chambers. To check the problem, the Maltese government is building a new entrance hall over the hypogeum, in which the air conditioning system will be installed thus insulating the paintings from the outside air as well as the humidity and carbon dioxide given off by tourists visiting the monument.

▼

SPANISH ARTIST MANUEL MENARGUEZ displayed his recent paintings, grouped under the theme *"reflejos"* (reflections), at UNESCO Headquarters from March 25 to April 5. Evoking water in all its forms, Menarguez captures it gushing forth in fountains, falling as rain, swelling as the sea, sunsplashed or reflecting

MANUEL MENARGUEZ

moon silver. The 33-year old painter who lives and works in Murcia, and is also well known for his mosaics and mural paintings, traces much of his inspiration to travels in countries with humid climates, including several voyages to the Philippines where he, notably, *"met with a magic world"* on the Island of Boracay.

FEZ "LIVING CITY"

UNESCO's International Safeguard Campaign is spurring action, but time, human error, and demographic pressure continue to wreak havoc in what was once the jewel of the Islamic world.

"After reaching the city, the river divides into a network of canals which carry its waters to the houses of citizens and members of the Royal Court... Every mosque and sanctuary receives its share, as do all the caravanserais, hospices and colleges," wrote Leo Africanus in his detailed "Description of Fez". He extolled the thousand and one virtues of these waters, which, according to popular belief, cured one of the gravel and eliminated bad odours...

Today, this *"Source of life"* has become a deadly peril in some districts, where water-related diseases and cholera epidemics are a frequent recurrence, illustrating in a dramatic and symbolic manner the deterioration of this once superb Islamic city. The fracture or corrosion of the water conduits has led to the mingling of fresh and waste water. Wells are contaminated and the disbanding of the "Qawadsiya" (water distribution workers) has contributed to the breakdown of the system. The water is now polluted, mirroring the crumbling walls of the Medina (the historical city), its gates, madrassas (schools) and mansions, eroded by the ravages of time.

The city of faith and knowledge, the Athens of Africa, a centre of learning famed for madrassas such as Al-Qarawiyin, established in 895, long before its counterparts in Bologna and Oxford, has retreated into itself.

POPULATION DOUBLED

Ancient balances have been destroyed by demographic pressure. The population of Fez has doubled in the past 15 years to 600,000 inhabitants, and there will be one million in the year 2000.

The authorities are aware of the need for urgent action. After a patient gestation of ideas and lengthy discussions, the project "Fez - Living City" was conceived. In the same way as the campaign to save the monuments of Nubia from the rising waters of the Nile, the campaign for safeguarding of Fez, launched by UNESCO on 7 April 1980, should act, according to Mr. Henri Lopes, Assistant Director General for Culture, *"as a spur in mobilizing the necessary resources"*.

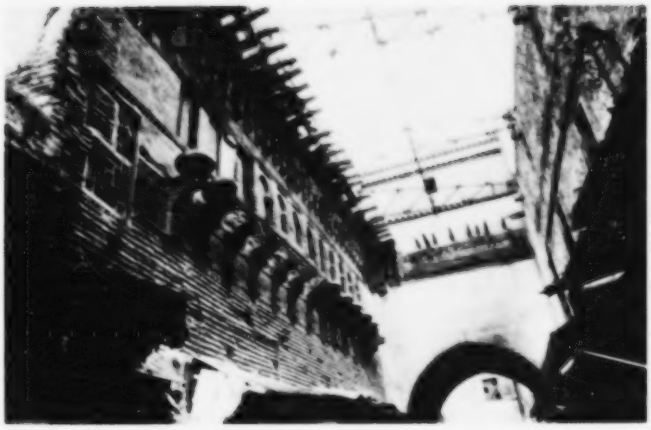
During his visit to Morocco in 1986, Mr. Lopes explained to Moroccan authorities that UNESCO will help prepare a coherent project with specific priorities. *"This is a very complex operation"*, he said, *" because we cannot save the Medina in isolation. The problem of growing population density means that part of the Medina should be transplanted elsewhere, outside the walls. The problems of town-planning, restoration and the redeployment of certain crafts and city dwellers must be viewed as a whole. UNESCO has little material resources, but it will help the Moroccan Government to bring all these objectives into line."*

MASTER PLAN

A vast planning effort was undertaken in 1980 following the appeal launched by the Director-General of UNESCO. So as to take account of the growth of the city, the master plan was updated into a *"revised safeguarding programme"*. With the help of UNESCO and UNDP experts, every aspect was gone over with a fine-tooth comb, inventoried, photographed and classified into priority projects and sub-projects. It was as though, in the words of one observer *"Fez, sensing that it was about to die, had decided to draw up its last will and testament"*.

This image was rejected by Mr. Hajjami, the official responsible for the project for safeguarding the city of Fez, who also heads the new Agency for population density control and rehabilitation of the city. *"We are fighting with all our strength to maintain the 'Fez : Living City' project. Fez should not become a museum. The aim of the project is not simply to save the fabric but to preserve the Arabo-Islamic personality of the city, its heritage and the wealth and originality of its industries. Each plan and operation should serve to revive the city as a whole."*

Notables, Sherifs and mastercraftsmen lived for centuries on the periphery of Fez or in its suburbs until the day when they were able to become part of the city. Today, they have abandoned the Medina and the city itself and the change in the



ANCIENT (14TH CENTURY) HYDRAULIC CLOCK IN THE BOUANANYA MADRASSA WITH ITS ROW OF BRONZE BOWLS ON CEDAR WOOD SUPPORTS (Photo UNESCO/ Dominique Roger).

social fabric has disrupted everything. In order to reconstruct and infuse new life into the city, every human and economic aspect must be taken into account; and while the lack of funds constitutes a major obstacle, the fact that there are so few architects and specialists in Islamic cities is yet another stumbling block. For those in charge of the project, however, *"things are now clearer"*.

"In order to contain the time factor" Mr. Hajjami explained, *"a schedule has been prepared for the most urgent tasks. At the same time, we have had to guarantee minimum standards regarding the fitness of dwellings"*. The rehabilitation plan has identified and inventoried the zones to be conserved, those which must be urgently renovated, monuments to be classified, zones assigned to trade and those reserved for other activities.

MOBILIZING GOODWILL

In order to launch the plan of action and ensure its follow-up, institutions have been created, new laws and regulations promulgated. The Agency for population density control and the rehabilitation of Fez has, accordingly, been set up, and a project for establishing a town-planning agency approved by Parliament. The project authorities have sought to overcome the funding problem by resorting to the traditional approach of mobilizing all available energy and goodwill with the help of institutes, associations, international organizations and government departments. Twelve houses in the Medina have been entirely renovated to serve as models for the rehabilitation of a district of 200 houses. A fresh project has also just been launched for the preparation of operations that are likely to attract donors. It was concluded between UNDP and the Moroccan Government, with the participation of UNESCO for the preservation of the architectural heritage.

For its part, a private association known as "Fès Saiss" has been energetic in approaching patrons for the restoration of the city's monuments. A number of wealthy Fassi entrepreneurs have, for example, begun the restoration of five famous monuments : Bab Mahrough, one of the principal entrance gates of the city, whose ceilings have crumbled away due to damp; the Bouananya Madrassa founded in 1351 and famous for its hydraulic clock, the only one of its kind in the world; the Najjarin caravanserai, a fine example of Arabo-Islamic art, in the heart of the Medina; the Attarin Madrassa, reflecting the apogee of Merinid art; and the Sharratin Madrassa founded at the beginning of the 17th century. His Majesty Hassan II has set an example by assuming responsibility for the 14th century Mesbahya Madrassa, one of the oldest of the madrassas.

All these efforts, however, are but a drop in the ocean. The lack of funds frustrates any large-scale plan of action. The safeguarding of the city of Fez is an enormous enterprise which cannot be carried out by individual donors, no matter how generous. Meanwhile, time - and at times human errors as well - continues to wreak havoc in the city, helping, in the words of one architect, to *"hasten the destruction of what was once the jewel of the Islamic world"*.

Farida MOHA
Rabat

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A MOZART MEDAL has just been issued by UNESCO to mark the 200th anniversary (1756-91) of the composer's death. Engraved by French artist Raymond Joly and produced at the Paris mint, it bears a stylized portrait of Mozart on the obverse and the UNESCO temple on the reverse.

Since 1974, UNESCO has regularly issued medals in two series : one illustrating threatened monuments and sites on the World Heritage List, and another commemorating anniversaries of eminent personalities and important historical events. The Mozart medal, a coveted collector's item, a superb gift or personal paper weight, costs 100 FF in bronze, 380 FF in silver and 1,500 FF in gold. A complete catalogue of UNESCO medals is available on request.

>>>> Philatelic and Numismatic Programme

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MOTHER TONGUES AND NATIONAL LANGUAGES, with emphasis on the programmes, methods and manuals for teaching them, was the subject of a regional conference held in Dakar (Senegal) from April 10 to 12.

At the meeting, organized by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Education in Africa (BREDA), the about 15 experts in linguistics from Africa, Europe and the Americas, exchanged experiences on the teaching of national languages in their respective countries, notably with regard to low-cost teaching aids and teacher training. Participating countries were : Benin, Cameroon, the Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Senegal, Togo, Kenya, Canada, Holland, Italy, Mexico and Singapore.

THE FUTURE IN THEIR HANDS

As more and more men move to the cities, Africa's rural women bear increasing responsibility for the environment.

Even at a young age, the Burundian woman's worth is judged in terms of how she exploits nature. The more products she is able to extract from the land for the survival of her family, the greater her "value". The criteria for her "marriageability" include her tenacity in the fields, and her commitment to collecting fire-wood and discovering arable land. In neighbouring Rwanda, the dowry offered for a young girl is higher in the north, where women's participation in production is considered an *"added value"*.

CARRYING WATER - IN BURKINA FASO (Photo UNESCO/Dominique Roger).

These two examples can be found all over sub-Saharan Africa with a few nuances here and there. They highlight the central role played by rural women in an economic system based largely on agriculture.

Indeed, the growing responsibility of these women for protection of the environment, was the theme of a five-day long seminar held under UNESCO's auspices in Bujumbura (Burundi) from April 8 to 12, 1991. The meeting was attended by representatives, many of them women, from six Central African countries : Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Rwanda, Chad and Zaire.

Traditionally, there has always been a division of labour between men and women. Over the last few decades, however, with the rural exodus of men to urban centres, and the development of male labour-intensive industrialisation, women, to an increasing extent, constitute a majority in the African countryside.

According to a 1986 study by the Ministry of Agriculture in Rwanda, women accounted for over half of agricultural labour, that is 51.8 % as against 48.8 % of men. As elsewhere in Africa, cash crops (coffee, tea, cocoa...) are mainly in the hands of men, whereas women devote themselves to the production of food for domestic consumption. In rural areas, therefore, the family's food security depends essentially on women. Now, in fact, there is no agricultural sector in which they do not participate.

DEPLETION OF RESOURCES

The intensive exploitation of natural resources, which implies various assaults on the environment, concerns women more and more. African decision-makers and planners are increasingly alarmed by degradation of the environment and the depletion of resources, essential for sustainable development.

The impact of human activities such as deforestation through burning or cutting, over-grazing, the disposal of sewage and other wastes, etc., leads to many forms of degradation, including erosion, desertification, denudation, perturbations of the hydrographic system and a general unbalance of the ecology.

Energy consumption is a major concern. According to the World Bank, wood accounts for over 90 % of domestic energy consumption in Africa. In Rwanda, for example, 1.23 m³ is consumed per inhabitant per year. Yet, the rate of deforestation is higher than reforestation because of a lack of rational management.

At the meeting, it was pointed out that other energy sources, such as methane gas, had been proposed as alternative solutions. The average firewood user could not, however, afford other types of fuel. Not only is wood less expensive, but the cooking utensils available in both rural and urban

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DIRECTOR-GENERAL FEDERICO MAYOR has announced the creation of a UNESCO centre in Kiev for the psychological rehabilitation of children affected by the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.
Mr. Mayor made the announcement during a three-day visit to the Soviet Socialist Republic of the Ukraine -12-14 April), where he inspected the disaster site and surrounding areas. UNESCO has made an initial contribution of $100,000 towards the organization of the centre and training for its personnel. The DG was accompanied by French designer Pierre Cardin and German actress Witta Pohl, who were recently named honorary ambassadors of the UNESCO Chernobyl Programme.

▼

THE UNITED KINGDOM INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON HYDROLOGY and UNESCO have signed a memorandum of understanding, formalizing British participation in the Organization's International Hydrological Programme. The U.K withdrew from UNESCO in 1985, however it has continued to participate in several of the Organization's programmes.The memorandum was ratified by UNESCO Director Federico Mayor at Headquarters April 16.

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UNESCO HAS ALLOCATED RESEARCH GRANTS of $5,000 each to nine European virologists working on AIDS research, to allow them to study in a laboratory of their choice. The scholarships have been allocated under a project established with the network *"Men against virus"*, whose members include leading European and North American researchers and institutions involved in AIDS research, along with UNESCO.
The network has spent the past two years searching for a vaccine against the AIDS virus, and presented its work at an international symposium of specialists held in Kiev (USSR) from April 15-19.

situations, are generally designed for wood-burning hearths or stoves.

One participant reported that Butane gas was being consumed to an increasing extent in Senegal, Mauritania and Cape Verde, but was still considered a marginal fuel.

as the priority of priorities. The aim would be to promote *"An understanding of the environment seen as the interaction of its biological, physical, social and cultural aspects."*

The ultimate aim is to develop a veritable *"environmental culture"* which would set off nature-protection reflexes in everyone, giving rise to new attitudes and values favourable to the preservation and improvement of the environment. They pressed for more formal and informal educational activities, literacy campaigns and other educational programmes at grass-roots level which would contribute to the building of this *"culture"*.

... TENDING THE LAND - IN SENEGAL (Photo UNESCO/Dominique Roger).

All of these problems, which seriously threaten Africa's future, are of course aggravated by the demographic explosion, reflecting birth rates of often over 3 per cent a year.

Participants at the Bujumbura meeting insisted that any strategy for the protection of the environment, if it is to succeed, must target rural women, whose role in the definition and implementation of energy policies was unanimously recognized.

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PLAN

As an example to be followed, they cited Cameroon which has drawn up a new environmental protection plan incorporating several programmes of action aimed at women.

Women should be encouraged, they said, to reduce the amount of wood they burned, through innovative methods such as new types of fuel-efficient stoves.

In their recommendations to African decision-makers and international cooperation organizations, such as UNESCO, the participants stressed environment education, particularly for rural women,

Other recommendations included the need for research aimed at identifying cultural practices that lead to environmental degradation; and the organization of campaigns to mobilise women on environment protection issues to coincide with African Womens Day (July 31).

Participants also called for the harmonisation of environment protection laws and policies, and for the intensified exchange of information and experiences through the organization of experts' meetings, study tours and sub-regional events in the form of exhibitions and fairs devoted to environmental issues.

D. BOMBOTE
Bujumbura, Burundi

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A DIRECTORY AND DATA BASE OF SOME 700 ORGANIZATIONS involved in early childhood development and family environment in 116 countries will become available from UNESCO at the end of this month. The directory describes the main activities of the alphabetically listed organizations, and provides names and contact addresses for them. Available also on disquette, it has been prepared by an inter-sectoral and inter-agency team within the framework of UNESCO's *"Young Child and the Family Environment Project"*.

>>> Wolfgang Schwendler or John Bennett, Sector of Social Sciences, UNESCO.

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PLANS FOR A NEW ACROPOLIS MUSEUM to house the Parthenon Marbles were unveiled in Athens last month before UNESCO's Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in the Case of Illicit Appropriation.

The Committee has been actively involved in the long-running negotiations between Britain, which possesses the marbles and Greece, which has asked for their return. At the Athens meeting, from April 22-25, the Committee recommended that the Secretariat seek the opinion of an independent panel of experts on the best site for the marbles.

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UNESCO CLUBS AND ASSOCIATED SCHOOLS organized the first of a series of international workshops on *"Great Challenges at the End of the 20th Century"* in Lome (Togo) from March 25 to 29. At the meeting, devoted to illiteracy and how best the Clubs and Schools could work to combat it, participants from six African countries exchanged experiences, compared pilot projects, analysed specific problems of basic education and literacy, and agreed to produce a "Practical Guide" for themselves and national decision-makers. Recommendations stressed the importance of literacy training in national languages, of raising awareness in favour of women's literacy, emphasized the necessity for using all available means of communication and of involving the competent authorities.

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UNESCO HAS LAUNCHED A STUDY into global basic education needs of refugees, in a bid to mobilise international support for refugee projects.

The study is being prepared in co-operation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in the light of the serious financial difficulties being faced by the UNHCR, and what it describes as "*negative trends in public opinion in many parts of the world*".

The results of the inquiry will be circulated among the four major sponsors of last year's World Conference on Education for All at Jomtien (Thailand), UNESCO, UNICEF, UNDP and the World Bank, and throughout the international donor community.

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FIFTY SEVEN KILOS OF PENCILS, notebooks and stationary, collected by the One Book for All Circle in Japan are now on their way to needy schools Equatorial Guinea.

The non-governmental organization sent the five cartons of materials to UNESCO with the request that they be passed on to schools in the developing world.

UNESCO ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GENERAL COLIN POWER HANDS THE DONATED MATERIALS TO THE AMBASSADOR OF EQUATORIAL GUINEA IN FRANCE, M. PEDRO EDJANG, AT HEADQUARTERS ON APRIL 4TH.
(Photo UNESCO/Michel Claude).

THE LITERACY CARAVAN

A novel idea taking literacy to the villages of Senegal.

"There is no salvation except in reading." Forty year-old Gora Sy is convinced of this and wants to make sure that everybody, the notables, national and international specialists and in particular the local population, meeting in the tiny Senegalese village of Cherif Lo, gets the message.

Gora Sy sells second-hand clothes in the market at Kaolak during the dry months from December to May, and is a farmer during the cooler months. However, three times each week, he travels four kilometres from home to the centre of his commune, Cherif Lo, to attend the experimental literacy class, which began in April 1990. And it was to this model student that the honour fell to address the Literacy Forum, last March 13th, in the name of all the neo-literates in his "class".

MORE THAN THREE QUARTERS OF SENEGAL'S POPULATION IS ILLITERATE.
(Photo UNESCO/Dominique Roger).

The Forum was organized to enable local teachers, Senegalese specialists and their counterparts from international organizations and non-governmental organizations to assess the results of the local languages literacy campaign. Needless to say, Gora Sy's speech in Wolof, the main national language, went straight to the hearts of donors ... *"A vast number of things are happening in our world today that call for the participation of all citizens in every country. Knowledge, for the most part, is transmitted through writing..."*

However, the Forum was only one aspect of the effervescent party-like atmosphere that reigned in Cherif Lo for three days at the end of the dry season. The tiny village of less than 500 people was hosting the first stage of the Literacy Caravan - a real caravan of a dozen buses, trucks and cars from Dakar, some 70 kilometres away - and anxiously awaited by the population which had scanned the horizon for hours earlier in the week to see the first dust cloud that would mark the beginning of the festivities.

HELPING PEOPLE TO HELP THEMSELVES

After the welcoming ceremonies, an informative and pedagogical exhibition on rural development was set up. Slogans at the various stands included - *"the why and how of literacy"*, how reading and writing helps to *"better produce"*, *"better manage the environment"*, in short to *"live better"*. Eager visitors snatched up posters, booklets, folders and calenders. In the evening, thanks to two generators and projection material brought from the capital, the people could watch films, a rare event in such a far flung place.

Originally planned as part of Senegal's International Literacy Year's activities, the Caravan is an initiative of UNESCO's regional office in Dakar and the Senegalese Education Ministry, with the backing of other United Nations agencies. Non-governmental organizations also participated in the event, as well as the UNESCO Martin Luther King Club in Dakar, and the Dutch UNESCO centre. The local fair allowed the Caravan to attain a double aim : to bring to the local population information that would help them improve their living conditions themselves and to stimulate and reinforce literacy.

During the Caravan's stay, the people of Cherif Lo proudly laid the foundation stone for their *"Centre for Human Resources"* - the first tangible result of a campaign which is set to continue in nine other villages in each of Senegal's administrative regions.

Ibrahim BAKHOUM,
Senegalese Press Agency (APS)
Dakar

REFORMING THE U.N.

The United Nations must anticipate changes in the world, and begin by asking questions about its own ends.

It is a fact that unprecedented upheavals have shaken the world since the end of the Second World War. Since the collapse of marxist-leninist dogma in Eastern Europe, and consequently the end of the East-West polarisation of world affairs, highlighted by the intervention of a multinational coalition in the Gulf, the *"reference points"* underlying international relations have fallen one after the other.

This *"crisis"*, in its literal sense, i.e. the moment of a profound and decisive turning point, has repercussions for the entire United Nations system. Though derided at times, the role of the United Nations in resolving the Iran-Iraq war, the conflicts in Afghanistan, Namibia, and the Gulf, proves that the world body is central, if not indispensable in international affairs.

This is positive but far from enough according to UNESCO's Director-General, Federico Mayor. The easing of the East-West relations and progress towards democracy notwithstanding, the persistence of bloody local conflicts, the growing threats to the ecological balance, and above all, the huge inequalities in development, prove that the United Nations ideal of peace and international security, social and economic development, based on the respect for human rights, is still a long way from reality.

Convinced that *"it is the duty of humanity to work towards another peace, another world"*, an expression he prefers to *"the new world order"*, Federico Mayor said recently in an interview with the French daily, Le Monde, that *"the United Nations must accompany, or better still, anticipate the changing times."* How ? By *"adapting"* itself between now and 1995, provoking a flow-on effect throughout the various UN agencies.

Though this reform has been on the agenda for a long time, the agencies themselves have not yet undertaken the process of introspection that goes beyond their mere machinery. It is time now to reflect on their aims, or in Federico Mayor's words, *"to reflect on the ends as well as the means, on the why as well as on the how."* The questions thrown up include : defining new objectives ; main areas of responsibility ; types of actions to be taken ; and the establishment of an original partnership with governments - in addition to their bilateral relations - civil societies and even the private sector.

This subject was addressed in an *"informal"* manner by the members of the UN Administrative Coordinating Committee (ACC), which held the first of its biannual meetings at UNESCO from April 19 to 22. There was general agreement on the importance of such reflection, but how it should be undertaken still has to be worked out. This will be on the agenda at the ACC's next meeting or perhaps on the margins of ECOSOC, the Economic and Social Council which meets in July. As Federico Mayor underlined, if institutions within the system do not agree on a joint list of propositions, *"other institutions, from the outside, may well take over."*

René LEFORT

FEDERICO MAYOR GREETS U.N. SECRETARY-GENERAL, JAVIER PEREZ DE CUELLAR AT THE RECENT ACC MEETING AT UNESCO (Photo UNESCO/Michel Claude).

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THE SULTAN QABOOS PRIZE for Environmental Preservation will be presented for the first time this October, at UNESCO's General Conference in October. The prize which will be awarded every two years, stems from a donation of $250,000 by His Majesty Qaboos Bin Said, the Sultan of Oman. It will be awarded to a person, organization or institution who has engaged in environmental or natural resources research, worked for environmental education and training, or helped establish or manage a protected area, such as a biosphere reserve or a natural World Heritage site. Nominations which may be proposed by governments, and selected governmental and non-governmental organizations, should be sent before June 30 to Bernd Von Droste, Director of the Division of Ecological Sciences at UNESCO.

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THE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR MOLECULAR AND CELL BIOLOGY (CIBMYC) founded by UNESCO and the Mexican government in 1989 is broadening its horizons. The centre is set to become the focal point of the new Inter-American Scientific Network (IASN) which will cover both Latin and North America, linking a number of major universities and scientific institutions and opening up new possibilities for co-operative research projects.

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A seminar on the Promotion of **INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES IN THE ARTS**, how they are organized from the point of view of planning, partnership, management and financing, and how they can be developed, possibly through formation of a network of leading institutions, will be held in Leningrad (U.S.S.R.) from June 17 to 20.

MEDIA SAVE ART 91, an international festival of competitions, debates and exhibitions on communication to protect the world's cultural heritage, will be organized by ICCROM/UNESCO, with support from the International Fund for the Promotion of Culture, in Rome (Italy) from June 17 to 22

About 30 world specialists will discuss the **CULTURAL DIMENSION OF DEVELOPMENT** during a meeting at Headquarters from June 19 to 21.

As part of the World Decade for Cultural Development, UNESCO is sponsoring a symposium in Québec City (Canada) from June 30 to July 4 on **WORLD HERITAGE TOWNS.**

OUR NEXT ISSUE will focus on UNESCO's Associated Schools Project (ASP) for promoting international understanding. Set up in 1953, the ASP now involves some 2,430 pre-school, primary and secondary schools, and teacher training institutions in 101 countries.